Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-125
Friday
28 June 1991

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Paper Says U.S. Policy May Increase Tension

PM2706092091 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22 Jun 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Congress Vote For Aid And Its Blatant Bias Toward Israel"]

[Text] With a majority of 378 votes to 44, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected a proposal to reduce aid to Israel because of its policy to build new settlements in the occupied West Bank. At the same time the House suspended military aid to Jordan in response to its position of support for Iraq. The House authorized President George Bush to pay these funds ($27 million) if the Jordanian Government pledges to hold bilateral negotiations with Israel, to recognize it, and to cease all cooperation with Iraq.

If we examine this U.S. policy—which uses financial aid to put pressure on the governments receiving it for political ends—we find that the U.S. House of Representatives, which is controlled by the Zionist lobby, uses aid to put pressure on only the Arabs, but rejects any proposal to exert pressure on Israel or to limit its aid.

The vote in question revealed how Congress grants the U.S. President all the powers he requires to destroy an Arab state such as Iraq and to wreck its agriculture and stock farming, while refusing to reduce by a few million dollars the aid allotted to Israel because of its settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories—a policy which conflicts with the U.S. Administration's efforts to bring about peace in the region.

It would not be untrue to say that such U.S. policies—whether at the level of the executive authority headed by President Bush or at the level of the legislative authority represented by Congress—will only increase tension in the region and exacerbate the state of turmoil staged against the United States and the Western states during the Gulf war and which was expressed by sweeping demonstrations in the Arab Maghreb, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, and elsewhere.

After the Gulf war the Arabs who supported Washington, as well as those who opposed it, expected the U.S. Administration to pursue different policies in its handling of the crisis—policies based on ending the occupation and checking the policies of settlement and expansionism pursued to the detriment of Arab territory. But what happened was that the administration was content with putting forward peace ideas, collided, as usual, with Israeli extremism, and started to backtrack on them, directing its pressures at the Arab side and continuing to indulge the Israeli side.

Congress' vote to freeze aid to Jordan and not to reduce Israeli aid is the strongest evidence that the new world order which President Bush announced to us is a perpetuation of the disadvantages of the old world order in our Arab region. If the administration believes that it will succeed in stopping the course of history and suppressing the legitimate Arab demands for sovereignty, independence, and democracy, then it is mistaken, and the coming years—and perhaps months—will reveal the erroneousness of that belief.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Willing to Participate on 'Equal Footing'

JN2706183791 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Amman, has said that the PLO is interested in the substance of the peace process and an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem.

In a statement to Jordanian Television, the Palestinian ambassador said the PLO is willing to participate in the peace process on an equal footing with the other interlocutors. The PLO is also prepared to look into all the procedural options available, including a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, 'Abd-al-Rahim added.

PLO Said Responsible for Repeal of Sentences

LD2706204891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: finally the moves and relentless efforts which had been exerted by the PLO and other international humanitarian bodies have born fruit. They have prompted the Kuwaiti Government to repeal the unjust death sentences which had been passed by the sham Kuwaiti courts on tens of our people's sons and other Arab communities in the emirate under the pretext of their collaboration with the Iraqi forces. A UN spokesman announced in New York yesterday that the Kuwaiti Government had decided to commute all death sentences passed by the martial law court to life imprisonment. Thus, Palestinian efforts, which went hand in hand with efforts made by international humanitarian bodies, have born fruit and saved the lives of tens of innocent people who had received unjust sentences out of proportion to the charges levelled against them.

It should be noted that the Kuwaiti decision was made on the eve of the announcement that martial laws, which were declared as soon as the emirate was liberated last February, were to be lifted in Kuwait and the fact that such a decision was made following a number of Palestinian organizations' threats to carry out acts of vengeance against Kuwaiti interests in Kuwait proper and outside it if the Kuwait Government went ahead with its decision and carried out the unjust death sentences.

If the decision to commute the death sentences passed against our sons in Kuwait fills our hearts with joy, the

imposition of the life imprisonment sentences—in addition to the suffering of our people, who stayed behind in Kuwait, who are being maltreated, threatened with deportation, being detained and tortured far beyond what the racists in South Africa have been committing against blacks—does, however, rapidly take away such a joy as well as hurt our joyful feelings from the fact that our sons have escaped the gallows.

While welcoming the decision to commute the death sentences passed on our sons and the sons of the rest of fraternal Arab countries in Kuwait, we would like, however, to point out the need for an official Arab move, at the level of the Arab League, and an international move by sending a fact finding delegation to investigate the situation of Palestinians there and to reorganize the trials in such a way that will guarantee the accused's right to defend themselves against the false charges that have been levelled against them.

Our joy will be incomplete and reserved until the day we can see that our sons in Kuwait have regained their freedom and attained their full rights to a free and dignified life, which corresponds with their contribution to the edifice of the emirate as well as their commitment to it during its most critical hour at a time when its own people had fled it.

Qaddumi Receives CPSU's Zuyev 26 Jun

LD2706185591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, received at the PLO's headquarters [in Tunisia] yesterday Mr. Yuriy Zuyev, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU, who was accompanied by Andrey Zakharov, head of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

They examined during the meeting the latest international, Arab and Palestinian developments in particular and, the latest developments in the Palestinian problem and the Soviet Union in addition to Palestinian-Soviet bilateral relations.

Mr. Zuyev asserted that the Soviet Union's stance, despite changes in its foreign policy, is firm and supportive of the Palestinian people's struggle to regain its legitimate rights under the leadership of the PLO, its legitimate and sole representative.

The importance of continuing coordination and cooperation between the PLO and the Soviet Union was also stressed.

Palestinian Intelligence Chief Interviewed

PM2806144491 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Jun 91 p 24

[Unattributed interview with Lieutenant Colonel Kamal Midhat, "chief of Palestinian intelligence and member of the Lebanese-Palestinian military committee that met in Sidon," in Sidon; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAWADITH] What is the PLO's real position pending the Army's deployment in the southern area?

[Midhat] From the outset the PLO has cooperated with the Lebanese state and facilitated the Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah and also in Jabal Lubnan. The PLO has emphasized its willingness to cooperate further to help the Lebanese state to extend its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory, especially the South, vast areas of which are still occupied by Israel and whose inhabitants and Palestinian camps are exposed to frequent Israeli attacks from land, air, and sea. This gives a special status to the southern camps, which should be taken into account because of their proximity to the enemy and their constant exposure to attacks. This means that they must be provided with their own capabilities to defend themselves, especially since our people have not forgotten the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

[AL-HAWADITH] What is the real Palestinian position on Resolution 425?

[Midhat] The PLO supports Resolution 425, which requires Israel to leave Lebanese territory immediately and to end its occupation of it. With president 'Arafat's support and in the Central Council's recent statement, the Palestinian leadership voiced its support for the Lebanese Government, placing the Palestinians at the Lebanese state's disposal in order to force Israel to implement Resolution 425, in the knowledge that we doubt the United States' seriousness in putting pressure on Israel to implement this resolution. This is because the United States is seeking to delay the implementation of this resolution so that it will be part of the regional conference that it is seeking to convene, in order to force Lebanon to sign a bilateral agreement with Israel. At such a conference Israel's interests and ambitions in Lebanon would be secured, and especially its ambitions regarding the water that for years it has consistently stolen from Shab'a and al-Tayyibah, annexing it to occupied Palestine. The recent air raids on our positions east of Sidon confirm that Israel's implementation of Resolution 425 is unlikely.

'Arafat, Belgian Envoy Discuss Issues

LD2706205891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, received yesterday Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin, secretary of state for Europe 92 at the Belgian Foreign Ministry. A general review of the latest developments of the Palestinian issue, the international peace process, and the stubborn policy of the government of the enemy toward it as well as the stance of the [Israeli] Labor Party, took place during the meeting.

The Middle East situation after the Gulf crisis and the latter's continuous repercussions, particularly on our Palestinian people in the Gulf in general and in Kuwait in particular, and the necessity for an urgent international move to guarantee the life of the sons of the Palestinian community there were also discussed.

Brother president Abu-'Ammar briefed Mrs. Lizin on the dangerous situation in the occupied territories, where the occupation authorities continue their terrorist acts against our people and widen their settlement attack through the arrival of large numbers of Jews from around the world and their settlement at the expense of our Palestinian people, who are harrassed by all means to force them to emigrate as a preparation for settlement on their land.

The topic of Palestinian-American contacts, which were stopped by the American Administration, was also discussed during the meeting. Secetary Lizin affirmed the need to resume these contacts to serve the international peace process so as to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue. The brother president leader stressed the importance of the European role and called for making more efforts to activate the peace process and force Israel to comply with international will in this regard.

Algeria

Gunfire, Barricades Reported in Algiers

LD2806083591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Some streets of the capital this morning bear the traces of a hot night. On their way to work, morning shift radio journalists noticed barricades made of stones, iron bars, and tires. This was due to some street demonstrations in some neighborhoods last night after 2300, when the curfew began. Some sporadic gunfire was heard later.

Authorities Regret Boy's Death

LD2606141191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The military authorities have said that they regret the accident that occurred yesterday during operations aimed at restoring public order and that caused the death of a 15-year-old boy. The boy sustained fatal injuries when adults, who were building a barricade, fled as the security troops approached.

On this sad occasion, the military authorities would like to remind parents and guardians of their legal obligations and the punishment and sentences which could result from the behavior of their adolescent children. Therefore, in addition to the sentences and punishment stipulated by Article 330, paragraph 3 of the penal code, it must be recalled that if an adolescent is arrested, his or her parents or guardians will definitely be summoned.

Cabinet Discusses Latest Incidents, Urges Calm

LD2706130891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The cabinet met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali. The cabinet was briefed on the situation in the country, especially after the latest incidents which, regrettably, caused new victims. The cabinet also discussed the draft of the report of the government's program which will be put to the National People's Assembly for ratification on 30 June.

The cabinet has called on all citizens to join in its efforts to provide all necessary conditions to calm the situation, restore civil peace, tranquillity, solidarity, and fraternity, which befit our values of civilization.

FLN Veterans Attend Central Committee Session

LD2606135791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee's extraordinary session started at the Olympic complex in Algiers this morning. It is worth recalling that the session was requested by the front's Political Bureau earlier this month. We have this report from our correspondent:

[Correspondent] What can be said about this morning's session is that the proceedings were held in camera since journalists were not allowed into the hall, apart from the tv crew who managed to film the opening of the session.

It transpires from this meeting that the participants discussed the agenda, which included only two items: the first is to examine the current situation in the country; the second is to discuss the idea of holding the FLN's extraordinary congress.

On this last point, according to some sources, one of the speakers is said to have suggested that the extraordinary congress should coincide with the appointment of the front's candidate for the presidential elections. According to the same sources, however, this point caused some reactions which prompted Secretary-General Mehri to intervene and ask that this subject be put aside as it is a matter for the extraordinary congress and in order to avoid discussing sensitive issues under the present circumstances which have led to dangerous developments.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that most of the prominent members of the FLN Central Committee attended this morning's session, including [former prime minister] Mouloud Hamrouche, [former foreign minister] Bouteflika, [former oil minister] Belaid Abdesslem, [former minister] Boumaza, [former interior minister] Hedi Khediri, [former National Assembly Speaker] Rabah Bitat, [former head of the FLN] Cherif Messaadia, and [former top party official] Yahiaoui.

Some of the cameramen, who were allowed into the hall for a few moments, said that they noticed the absence of Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali.

Central Committee Extends Meeting

LD2806063291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] As far as partisan activities are concerned, the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee session, which is being held at the Oval Hall at the 5 July Olympic Stadium, will be extended for another day.

Our colleague, Mohsin Slimani, who has been following the proceedings, reports on the main points discussed:

[Begin Slimani recording] The proceedings of the FLN Central Committee were adjourned this evening. They will continue tomorrow following the conferees' suggestion that they should be extended in order to allow the Committee on Political Measures, which began its work today, to make its proposals.

The Organizational Committee, which was also formed today, will be putting the outcome of its work before the Central Committee emergency meeting scheduled to take place on 11 July.

It is worth recalling that the Committee on Political Measures is entrusted with drawing up proposals revolving around the FLN stance on the current situation and the dangerous developments facing the country. The Organizational Committee's tasks, which are likely to be more difficult, deal with the ways in which the FLN party should be run, particularly the definition of the powers of the Central Committee and the Political Bureau.

As far as discussions revolving around the changes in the FLN leadership are concerned, opinions differ. There is a general trend, however, calling for the introduction of changes in the Political Bureau and the election of a new leadership. In this context, some conferees believe that the FLN should transcend the struggle among the state's various apparatuses and not criticize the current leadership, a matter which [former minister] Bachir Boumaza tried to emphasize, as a Central Committee member told us.

As expected, Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche did not speak today to answer criticism leveled against him, particularly by Mr. Abdelsalem Belaid [FLN old guard and former minister of energy] this morning. He might speak tomorrow. As some central committee members have suggested, however, he might just be happy to sit and listen to speeches and criticism being leveled against him.

Finally, we would like to point out that a news conference will be held at the FLN central office tomorrow. [end recording]

FIS Council Alert to Plot by Members

LD2706110991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Yesterday evening the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Consultative Council described the accusations made by three of its members against its president, Abassi Madani, as a plot. The communique does not mention the names of the three members in question, but it says that the FIS is alert to this kind of plot, which it will foil.

Algiers Ulema Issue Statement on Situation

LD2706151791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The Ulema Council of Algiers governorate has issued the following statement:

The situation our country is passing through today has reached a state of tension which heralds danger. It is the duty of all—individuals, families, organizations, and officials in various fields—to work as one with all the wisdom and reason with which we are endowed to avoid all the grave repercussions which could result from this critical situation, relying on our Islamic values which cultivate the spirit of love and fraternity and forbids discord, sedition, and the shedding of Muslim blood. Therefore, the Ulema Council of Algiers governorate calls on all leaders to observe the rulings and morals of Islam and to respect Islamic institutions and those in charge of them and to refer to the knowledgable religious authorities in all that concerns Islam and the Muslims. Only in this way will the unity and cohesion of the Algerian people be guaranteed on the basis of its Islamic religion for which it accepts no substitute. Guard against the shaking and ordeals and protect against any hand that may reach out with evil and aggression at home or abroad.

Egypt

Official Denies Demand for Saddam's Removal

NC2706133791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—Assistant Foreign Minister Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr has categorically denied that Jordan and Yemen have asked Egypt to appoint a new secretary general for the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] to succeed Dr. Hilmi Nammar, whose term ended recently.

In a statement to MENA, Abu-al-Nasr said that Egypt suspended its membership after Iraq, an ACC member, invaded Kuwait and created serious regional problems. He said that in order to nominate a new secretary general, the ACC Higher Council must meet, something which is out of the question at the present time.

Regarding reports that Egypt will not resume its membership in the ACC as long as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn remains in power, Abu-al-Nasr said that this is not at all correct, because Egypt has not and will not interfere in a purely domestic Iraqi matter.

Mubarak Rejects Libyan Mediation With Sudan

NC2806085991 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Jun 91 p 1

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report]

[Text] Egypt has rejected a Libyan offer to hold an Egyptian-Sudanese summit to eliminate the disagreements between Cairo and Khartoum and lay new foundations for bilateral ties.

According to Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo, President Husni Mubarak told Libyan President [title as published] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that he does not wish to meet with 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese ruling military council. The sources added that, based on Sudan's current policies, Cairo has rejected more than one Sudanese request to allow al-Bashir to visit Egypt.

Egypt also rejected the Sudanese regime's request to halt the Sudanese opposition's media and political activities in Cairo. Several members of the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Cairo will leave Egypt over the next few days in accordance with a decision by the Sudanese Foreign Ministry to reduce the size of its diplomatic missions in some countries to cut expenses.

The sources revealed that Egypt and Sudan disagree on Eritrea's future and said that, while Egypt wants to preserve Ethiopian unity and prevent that country's partition into smaller states, Sudan supports establishing an independent Eritrean state.

Cairo recently rejected the Sudanese regime's request to help it improve its image in the United States and Europe to end its international isolation.

Nationals Detained in Kuwait Reportedly Tortured

NC2806094091 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 26 Jun 91 p1

[AL-AHALI "exclusive" report]

[Text] Kuwait—A responsible Egyptian diplomatic source in Kuwait has said that there are more than 300 Egyptians in Kuwait's prisons and police stations. He said that the majority of them secretly entered Kuwait to escape the intensive U.S. attack on Iraq and that approximately 70 have been accused of collaborating with Iraq.

The responsible Egyptian source said the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait has confirmed that the Egyptians are being regularly beaten, tortured, and abused, particularly in Kuwaiti police stations.

An Egyptian official has presented 15 memorandums to the Kuwaiti Interior and Foreign Ministries asking for permission to visit the Egyptians and check their condition, but the Kuwaiti Government has not replied.

Egyptian officials are surprised by Kuwait's position, because the U.S. ambassador in Kuwait can visit non-American detainees, including Palestinians, after simply making a telephone call.

Musa on Gulf Security, Mideast Peace Efforts

NC2608165691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the Gulf security issue is linked with Arab charters on this matter and to the future situation in the Gulf region. In a statement today, he said the security arrangements in the Gulf concern the eight countries that signed the Damascus Declaration, who met in Cairo and Damascus. Experts from these countries also met recently in Doha, and their foreign ministers will meet in Kuwait within two weeks. He stressed there is complete understanding and coordination among these countries. He said any talk of differences in views disregards the new attitude in the Arab world—that issues are discussed with understanding, harmony, and coordination. He said the existence of diverse views on the same issue is healthy. Musa said the continued contact among the eight countries is aimed at drawing up the best formula for security in the Arab Gulf region and within the framework of the Damascus Declaration and basic principles. He said meetings among these countries are continuing not because of differences, but to work out the best formula for implementing the Damascus Declaration.

On the efforts being made to advance the Middle East peace process, Musa said the efforts will continue to overcome all obstacles, particularly Israel's rejection of a number of the principles on which the peace process must be based. He emphasized that the building of settlements is enormously defiant of the peace process. He said these practices, which constitute a large obstacle to peace, must be stopped. These practices are illegal and run counter to international law, particularly Security Council Resolution 242.

Commenting on UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's statement refusing a marginal UN role in the Middle East peace process, Musa stressed that no one agrees to a marginal role by the United Nations, which passed Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and emphasized the principle that the acquisition of another's land by force is unacceptable. He noted that the principle of exchanging territory for peace is the essence of Resolution 242, and therefore the United Nations must participate in any negotiations concerning the peace process; its role cannot be considered marginal. [passage omitted]

Iranian Official's Gulf Security Remarks Viewed

NC2706141191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "Egypt and Security in the Gulf and the Middle East"]

[Text] A statement by the Iranian deputy foreign minister two days ago on Egypt's role in Gulf security deserves objective analysis because it reveals hegemonic trends and intentions some Iranian officials still may be harboring. There actually is no other possible explanation for such a statement, which, in the words of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, is an astonishing one. What harm is there for Iran if Egypt—the largest, and consequently, the greatest country in the Middle East—bears an international, regional, military, and political responsibility in the region?

It is curious that such a statement is made when the overall relations among the region's countries are supposed to be moving toward normalcy and toward being governed by mutual trust, cooperation, and collective interests, not any other principles.

The Iranian official based his remarks on a pretext that reveals shallow political and strategic thinking. What he

said was that economic difficulties in Egypt prevent it from performing a regional role. If we examine this pretext, we will find it means that if any country suffers economic difficulties, this must prevent it from participating in the collective and legitimate defense of its security and the security of the region in which it exists. Any country's security is closely linked with that of the region to which it belongs. It is an accepted fact that threats to this security and violations of legitimacy might well come from one of the region's countries, as in the case of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This link actually was the primary motive and principle on which Egypt based its strong opposition to this invasion and aggression against legitimacy and its participation in remedying the situation. It did this despite the fact Iraq is an Arab country.

This leads us to another basic point the Iranian official's statement raises, which is that Gulf security is primarily an Arab issue and, as we have already noted, Egypt is the region's largest and most influential country. Pan-Arab security is an integral whole. What affects Gulf security necessarily affects the security of all Arab countries, notably Egypt. How, then, can one imagine that security arrangements or structures can be established in the region without Egypt's playing a role—indeed a prominent one?

At this point we must recall an obvious fact. When Egypt participated in the defense of international, regional, and Arab legitimacy after Iraq invaded Kuwait, it did so while suffering the economic difficulties noted by the Iranian official. The crisis provoked by the invasion increased these economic difficulties. This, however, is a completely different issue from defending security and legitimacy. Strategic and farsighted considerations, as implicitly noted by the Egyptian foreign minister, entail burdens that must be borne.

Is it possible for economic difficulties—from which Iran also greatly suffers—to prevent a country from placing its supreme security requirements above all other considerations?

We have said that this curious statement—which includes an implicit attack on Egypt—and the justifications it uses perhaps reveals some parties' hidden intentions toward the Gulf and the Arab countries in general.

At any rate, we must emphasize that Egypt, while preparing to shoulder its historic and fateful role in the region, has no ambitions, hegemonic intentions, or plans to intervene in the internal affairs of any country in the region. The opposite is true. Recent events have clearly demonstrated that Egypt plays its fateful role in guaranteeing security and legitimacy in the entire region. Only under the aegis of security and legitimacy can the region's countries pursue the path of progress which they have long neglected as a result of political shortsightedness and a tendency to embark on illegitimate adventures.

Libya

Commentary Affirms Right To Retaliate

LD2706123291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Jun (JANA)—In the past two days Western and U.S. news media reported allegations by the LOS ANGELES TIMES, which is closely linked to the CIA, that the Great Jamahiriyah is linked to the accident of the Pan American airliner that crashed above Lockerbie, Scotland, on 21 December 1988, killing 259 passengers as well as 11 inhabitants of Lockerbie.

For its part, France-Info radio said Tuesday [25 June] afternoon that the U.S. press has begun to write again about Libya's responsibility for the plethora of explosions in recent years.

Commenting on these allegations, JANA's political editor says: It is customary for the Western press to cite the name of the Great Jamahiriyah now and again in accusations and allegations. And as soon as the ink with which they are written dries, the world public realizes the reality of the Western media's artificial storm against the Great Jamahiriyah. The Western press is not pleased to see Libya continue its march on earth and under the sun.

JANA's political editor goes on to say: World public opinion has in the past indeed discovered the fallacy of the U.S. press allegations and lies soon after they have been spread, as happened in the circumstances of the La Belle nightclub incident in Berlin in 1976 [as published]. The two-year long investigations proved that Libya had nothing to do with it, but the allegations had an effect on the reputation of the Great Jamahiriyah. Therefore, world public opinion should pay attention to this fresh campaign launched by the U.S. press and those standing behind them, to perpetrate political terrorism against the Great Jamahiriyah, which rejects terrorism and condemns any acts harming the lives of the innocent.

JANA's political editor goes on: While drawing world public opinion's attention to the premeditated intentions and dangerous aims of Western and U.S. newspapers through their fresh campaign, the Great Jamahiriyah, which has been standing on the side of freedom and justice in the world and supporting these causes, can no longer accept the accusations leveled against it.

The political editor reveals the methods of information trickery and deception followed by the ruling circles in the West, and says: Despite the fact that the Pan American airliner crash was linked to the Zionist Mosad from the start, the ruling circles in the West, which fear Zionist blackmail, quickly forgot the evidence for this, and then made accusations at random in what was clear political blackmail. They started with Iran, accusing it of undertaking the operation in revenge for the act of terrorism when the U.S. Air Force shot down an Iranian civilian airliner over the Arab Gulf, which resulted in the death of more than 200 passengers. After Iran, they

accused Syria of harboring a Palestinian organization that had carried out the operation on behalf of Iran.

Then Libya and [words indistinct] were accused, (?claiming) that the operation was carried out by alleged Libyan agents for the Palestinian Front which had undertaken the task in the interest of Iran. And finally, we are hearing once again that Libya alone is concerned, and that it is the only one accused.

Concluding his comment, JANA's political editor says: Anyone following this new scenario would be aware of the fact that it is linked to the political developments in our region following the Arab Gulf war, a matter that clearly shows the ethics of the West which does not hesitate to use any human tragedy for the purpose of political terrorism and blackmail. This, at a time when the West is ignoring the fact that an official organization is perpetrating acts of terrorism, such as the act of terrorism committed by the CIA by using Libyan prisoners and training them to commit acts of terrorism against their own country. It the kidnapped them and transported them from Chad to a number of African countries after the victory of the revolution, and finally to the United States to use them in acts of terrorism against the Great Jamahiriyah, contrary to all international and human standards and laws.

The political editor concludes his comment by saying: We cannot ignore this, irrespective of the level of the clamor fabricated by the U.S. and Wesern information against the Great Jamahiriyah. It will not make us forget the act of terrorism perpetrated by the CIA, and we stick to our right to retaliate for any act undertaken by these groups against the Great Jamahiriyah.

WASHINGTON POST Allegations Rejected

LD2706224591 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Tripoli, as-Sayf [June] 27, 91, ARAB MAGHREB UNION POOL—Mr. al-Bishari, the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has described the mad media campaign waged by the [words indistinct] papers against Great al-Jamahiriya over the destruction of the U.S. passenger plane /Pan American/ in 1988 as prejudiced and silly.

In comments made to JANA, Mr. al-Bishari has pointed out that this campaign is of an open objective aiming at implementing the U.S. scheme over the so-called the regional conference for peace demanding that the Arabs recognize the Israelis and the security arrangements in the Gulf.

Mr. al-Bishari has refuted the allegations aired by THE WASHINGTON POST paper which is sponsored by the CIA saying that we reject these poisonous allegations targetting the good name of Great al-Jamahiriya which endeavours for building man and achieve his freedom and future.

He adds that Great al-Jamahiriya has previously denounced terrorism in all its forms and it still abiding by this stance. It condemns terrorism and the hijacking of planes.

Sudanese Prime Minister Departs After Visit

LD2006215291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Surt, 20 Jun—Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation and prime minister of fraternal Sudan, has praised the direct democracy being practiced by the Libyan Arab people through their people's conferences and commitees

In a statement on his departure from Surt Airport today at the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, during which he led the Sudanese delegation to the first meeting of the Libyan-Sudanese Arab Integration Ministerial Committee, he said: We have benefited greatly from the Jamahiriyah theory and have decided to apply it in Sudan, because it provides the final and radical solution for all the problems of the peoples. He added that this year Sudan will witness a historic event represented in the handing over of authority to the people. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister Terms U.S. Efforts in Horn 'Unrealistic'

EA2606203691 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1600 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Sudan has said that efforts by the U.S. to resolve the conflicts in the Horn of Africa were not realistic and that the countries of the region should find their own solution to their problems. Culture and Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad said the efforts were unrealistic because they are based on the role of leadership that the U.S. has assumed on itself since the end of the Gulf war. Washington has made proposals to end the long-running civil war in Sudan in which rebels in the mainly Christian and non-Christian south are fighting government troops from the Muslim north over the imposition of shari'ah law. 'Ahmad, who is also the Sudanese Government spokesman, asked the countries of the region to find their own solutions in order to avoid any outside interference.

Sudanese Rebel Leader John Garang Interviewed

PM2706085091 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jun 91 p 5

[Interview with Colonel John Garang, commander of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, by 'Awatif Sayyid Ahmad in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ahmad] What is the purpose of your present visit to the United States, and is there any significance in its timing?

[Garang] I am used to making diplomatic moves during the rainy season (May-June) every year because of the government forces' inability to launch an effective offensive against the movement during that season. And since there are peace initiatives represented by the U.S. plan and the Nigerian mediation, these moves give me the opportunity to negotiate with these parties. I arrived here from Nigeria and held talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen. I presented the position of the leadership of the [Sudanese] People's [Liberation] Movement [SPLM] on the initiative, which we thought included positive elements. I pointed out to him the movement's willingness to enter without preconditions into preliminary negotiations on a date and in a venue agreed by the parties concerned.

And when I say "the parties concerned," I mean everyone who has submitted a proposal or offered mediation, as well as the Sudanese Democratic National Grouping (opposition). I am also ready to negotiate with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir or the de facto government in Khartoum at any time and anywhere except Khartoum, because we are concerned about the safety of the movement's delegation members who go there to negotiate.

Since our prime concern is to rescue 400,000 Sudanese refugees returning to Sudan from their camps in Ethiopia and who are exposed to bombardment by the Sudanese Government, I have requested humanitarian aid for them. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] It is said that your visit to the United States was prompted by an improvement in U.S. relations with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's government. What is your opinion?

[Garang] Mine is a routine visit, as I said. I make a similar visit every year. But, of course, as a commander of the rebel forces fighting the Khartoum government, it is in the interests of my aims—which include toppling the al-Bashir regime—for there not to be good relations between the regime and any other government, including the U.S. Government. This is because it is in the interests of the movement and of anyone wanting the al-Bashir regime's downfall to see him isolated both internally and externally. I am doing this, and will continue to do so, whether Mengistu has been toppled or not. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Is it true that the movement has purchased arms from the Lebanese Forces militias, which are trying to get rid of their arms?

[Garang] I have not heard of this before, and my answer is: definitely not. I am amazed how people can fabricate such things. But we would be pleased if arms were available to us, because every army needs arms. We do not have the money to purchase arms. But if they offer us peace, we will not reject it.

[Ahmad] There has been much talk about the movement's relations with Israel and about arms and experts supplied to you by Israel. What is your comment?

[Garang] The answer is "no." These accusations have emanated from Khartoum since the era of former President Ja'far Numayri. They are intended to kindle feelings in order to secure Arab and Islamic aid. It is also said of me that I obtained my M.Sc. degree from Israel, though I obtained it from the University of Iowa (America).

[Ahmad] Do you receive aid from any Arab state?

[Garang] We received aid from Libya when we were fighting Numayri. And I am still grateful to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for that. This is why the movement has never criticized al-Qadhdhafi, despite his boycott of us and his support for Lt. Gen. al-Bashir. Apart from that, we have received no material support from any Arab state. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] When will the war end? Have the Sudanese people not suffered enough?

[Garang] We are fighting to bring about peace. The war will end when its causes disappear; this includes al-Bashir's downfall.

[Ahmad] Do you see any change in the Sudanese Army's political and social structure?

[Garang] There definitely is a change. The nature of the recent coup—which was ideological—clarifies that. This is because the present army is the [National] Islamic Front in a military uniform. And they are earnestly working to change the Sudanese Army's character through the arbitrary dismissal of those who are not loyal to the front and by sending the others to the south in order to be killed there. They have also started training their cadres abroad, just as they did before they carried out their coup. This is the argument of the officers who were in the legitimate command (Lieutenant Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, Lieutenant 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, and others), since they want to protect the Sudanese Army from fragmentation, and we are cooperating with them on that basis.

[Ahmad] Many Sudanese condemn your acceptance of some elements working to weaken democracy to the SPLM. How do you justify it?

[Garang] We did not create the Democratic Unionist Party or the Ummah Party. The fact is that they are two different groups. We do not agree with many of their ideas, but our aims are clear—to build a new, unified Sudan.

[Ahmad] Are they also working to build a new Sudan?

[Garang] They are against Lt.Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir and want to topple the present regime, and we agree with them on that. What's wrong with that?

Besides, change is expected from every party, and it all depends on their ability to make a change.

[Ahmad] What is your comment on what is being said in the West about the Sudanese opposition's weakness and the fact that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir does not feel its threat?

[Garang] That is incorrect, because Lt. Gen. al-Bashir assumed power two years ago and their tanks are still in the streets. So if he does not feel any threat, let him remove them.

The Democratic National Grouping may have its differences, but, of course, together with the SPLM and others, they represent clear sources of threat to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir. The grouping is fighting in earnest and with a strong belief in the new Sudan, and all of us in the movement and the grouping will triumph soon. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Five Muslim Fundamentalists Sentenced to Death

LD2706163791 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Five Muslim fundamentalists were sentenced to death by a Tunis court today. Last February they had attacked one of the local headquarters of the ruling party, killing two security men who were guarding the building. The five men were initially sentenced to life imprisonment at the beginning of the month, but the Supreme Court then ordered a reexamination of the trial. Rida Boughezi is on line from Tunis:

[Boughezi] The verdict given at dawn today was more or less expected by observers after the appeal to the Supreme Court requested by lawyers for the accused and for the plaintifs. According to the facts on which the verdict was given, the 28 accused, who admitted belonging to the fundamentalist movement Ennahda, last February attacked local headquarters of the ruling party. They tied up, poured gasoline on, and set fire to two security men guarding the building. One of the men died several days later. Although openly against capital punishment, many Tunisians this morning seemed to approve of the tough verdict. Impressed by the unbearable televised picture of those burned, they found the initial life sentence given on 21 May too lax. For the condemned, the only hope lies in a presidential pardon from Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, who while working as interior minister for Bourguiba in 1987 saved from the gallows some thirty fundamentalists including Ennahda movement leader Rached Ghannouchi. The big question is: Will the Tunisian president be equally lenient today? The recent unveiling of a fundamentalist plot against the regime and the Algerian specter looming heavy over Tunisia will certainly be taken into account in a presidential decision.

Further Sentences Reported

LD2706220991 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The criminal chamber at the Court of Appeals in Tunis today issued its verdict on the aggression against Constitutional Democratic Rally Coordination Committee headquarters in Bab Souika, sentencing five defendants to death, two of whom are at large. It also sentenced seven defendants to life imprisonment, three defendants to 20 years imprisonment, and eight defendants to five years imprisonment. The court issued a two-year imprisonment sentence, with postponement of implementation, against one defendant, and decided to refuse to (?grant a hearing to) three defendants. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN2706125591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Manama, 27 Jun (WAKH)—Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim al- Sabah, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Manama this morning.

He was received at the airport by Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

Meets Amir, Departs

JN2706183491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1055 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Manama, 27 Jun (WAKH)—The amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, received at noon today by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation currently visiting Bahrain.

Shaykh Salim conveyed the greetings of the amir of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, to his highness the amir of Bahrain.

Their discussion dealt with the warm fraternal and distinguished relations between the two sisterly countries, the latest political developments in the Gulf and Arab region, and the reconstruction efforts in Kuwait.

Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman hailed the continuous efforts made by Kuwait in cooperation with its sister states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, wishing Kuwait and its people continued security, stability, and well-being under the leadership of his highness the amir of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister conveyed the thanks and appreciation of the Kuwaiti amir and people to the amir of the state of Bahrain for the support received by Kuwait during the battle for liberation, and for the hospitability the Kuwaiti community is receiving in Bahrain.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and Jamal al-Ghanim, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister left for Kuwait today. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and a number of officials.

Kuwait

AL-WAFD Interviews Information Minister

NC2606064991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has stressed that Kuwait will resume its cultural role and work to consolidate Arab unity although it has just come out of the bitter ordeal of the Iraqi occupation. He said Saddam Husayn was an odd phenomenon which should be erased from the history of the Arab nation.

In an interview with AL-WAFD—mouthpiece of the Egyptian opposition al-Wafd Party—al-Ya'qub said: No one can drive a wedge between Egypt and Kuwait.

Dr. al-Ya'qub emphasized that Kuwait is capable of consolidating its future in cooperation with its brothers in Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

He pointed out that marking the borders between Iraq and Kuwait will restore to the latter lands which originally belonged to it and on which Iraq frequently encroached. He expressed the belief that once the borders are marked, Iraq will realize that Kuwait has irrevocable historic rights documented by international agreements.

The Kuwaiti information minister pointed out that the meeting which will be held in Kuwait on 9 July among the foreign ministers of the eight signatories of the Damascus Declaration will put the declaration in its final form and enforce its provisions. He said also that the signatories will coordinate their information policies and handle Arab issues of common interest.

Touching on the domestic situation in Kuwait, al-Ya'qub said parliamentary practice will be reinstituted in October 1992. He explained that this date takes the Kuwaiti interest into account because there are many tasks which the government will have to undertake until that date, including preparations for clean and free elections.

He denied that the west is bargaining with Kuwait by linking loans to the consolidation of democracy in the country. He underlined that Kuwait is still capable of fulfilling its financial commitments and that there is no bargaining on democracy or any other question. He stressed that Kuwaiti democracy is sound and that there are no restriction on differing views.

Dr. al-Ya'qub said he cannot say that there is opposition in Kuwait in the traditional sense of the word. He explained that the matter is merely a disparity in views within the Kuwaiti family.

On the GCC states' participation as observers in any peace conference, the Kuwaiti information minister said the idea emerged originally to support the concept of holding a peace conference and out of the GCC states' belief in the importance of current peace efforts in the region. He expressed the hope that all viewpoints will culminate in a solution of the Middle East issue.

UN Inspection Team 'Fired Upon'

NC2806151991 Paris AFP in English 1508 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] New York, United Nations, June 28 (AFP)—A team of United Nations experts in Iraq to inspect nuclear facilities was fired upon but no one was injured, diplomatic sources said Friday.

They gave no further details on the incident.

Last weekend, the experts were denied access to Iraqi nuclear installations.

Paper Says Country Seeks To Cooperate With UN

JN2806082991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0714 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH [words indistinct] has rebutted [words indistinct] that Iraq is not cooperating with the United Nations in implementing the cease-fire resolution and continues to carry out a nuclear weapons program. The paper described these accusations as part of the plot being implemented by Washington against Iraq and its people.

The newspaper, organ of the Defense Ministry, says in its editorial today that Iraq honestly seeks to cooperate with all UN efforts to implement the resolutions on the establishment of peace and security in the region.

The paper indicates that Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations is not an acknowledgment of the soundness and fairness of these resolutions, but because it realizes that a serious and speedy implementation of these resolutions will strip the United States of the justifications and pretexts of its presence in the region.

AL-QADISIYAH says that stripping Washington of the pretexts of its presence in the region will either make it leave the region or leave it exposed before the international community. In both cases, this means a countdown to the end of the plot against Iraq, the peoples of the region, and the Arab nation.

The paper asserts that the dimensions of the current propaganda campaign are known. It says that by its allegations, accusations, and fabrications, Washington wants the tension with Iraq to continue in order to prolong its presence in the region, and at the same time, to achieve its evil desire of continuing the economic embargo imposed on the Iraqi people and using the media weapon against it.

Delegate States UN Commitments To Be Honored

JN2706120691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations, has declared that Iraq does not intend to go back on its commitments to cooperate in earnest with the United Nations.

In a speech at an official session of the UN Security Council last night, the Iraqi delegate warned that the motive behind the new anti-Iraq campaign might be to prepare for a hostile move against Iraq or to continue to keep world public opinion unaware of the harm caused to the Iraqi people by the economic blockade.

An INA correspondent cited al-Anbari as saying that there is categorical evidence of Iraq's full cooperation with the special and inspection committees. The International Atomic Energy Agency had previously expressed appreciation for Iraq's cooperation with the committee it has sent, he added. Iraq is demonstrating full cooperation with the committee now visiting Iraq, he said. He noted that any sensible person could have concluded that Iraq could have moved the equipment it wanted to since the cease-fire went into effect instead of waiting for the arrival of inspection committees, as is being said.

Al-Anbari asserted that Iraq is sincere in its cooperation with the United Nations and all the delegations the UN secretary general has sent, as well as the committees mentioned in Resolution 687.

Group Claims Poison Gas Stored in Abattoir

LD2706140291 Hamburg DPA in German 1219 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Goettingen (DPA)—According to information from a delegation from the Society of Threatened Peoples [GfbV], a secret poison gas store has been set up in the abattoir of the Al-Maalf quarter of Baghdad. The delegation is at present in Iraqi Kurdistan, the GfbV reported in Goettingen today. According to usually reliable Kurdish sources, the Iraqis are said to have taken ten tanks containing poison gas there on 2 June, it was said. They would be guarded by the Republican Guard.

The society believes there is justification in the fears of the Kurdish population that in renewed military action Iraq could use such weapons on Kurds and Shiites.

UN Notified of U.S. Aircraft Activity

JN2706144791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft have again violated Iraqi airspace, engaging in reconnaissance and provocation.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general today, Iraq's permanent representative said that on 25-26 June, U.S. aircraft carried out 16 sorties in six two-plane formations, and four individual sorties. He noted that the aircraft flew at a speed of 700-900 km per hour and at low and medium altitude mainly over the Mosul, Irbil, Dahuk, and Zakho areas.

UN Envoy Protests Violations

JN2706203891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] New York, 27 Jun (INA)—Iraq today lodged a protest with the UN secretary general against U.S. aircraft violations of its airspace.

The INA correspondent in New York reported that Iraq's permanent UN representative informed Perez de Cuellar in his memorandum that U.S. air activity on 26-27 June totaled 15 sorties broken down into seven dual sorties and one individual sortie. He noted that the aircraft flew at a speed of 600-800 km per hour at low and medium altitudes.

Iraq's permanent UN representative added that the hostile aircraft centered their activity over Mosul, Irbil, and Dahuk on missions of reconnaissance and provocation.

UNICEF Delegation Visits Karbala'

JN2606142991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1246 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Karbala', 26 Jun (INA)—A UNICEF delegation led by Mr. Stord Matcher [name as received] visited Karbala' Governorate today.

The delegation acquainted itself with the damage the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression inflicted on service facilities and health institutions in the governorate. The Karbala' governor also briefed the delegation on the campaign to reconstruct what the aggression and the mobs' sabotage destroyed and also on the governorate's need for various services.

The delegation said it was ready to extend every possible assistance the citizens required in the field of basic services.

Memo to UN on Iranian Cease-Fire Violations

JN2706203391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1841 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] New York, 27 Jun (INA)—Iraq has again held the Iranian Government fully responsible for all the consequences and negative results for Iraq by the repeated Iranian cease-fire violations.

This came in a memorandum from 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent UN representative, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The memorandum reviewed new Iranian cease-fire violations. It explained that at 1330 on 17 June, the Iranians set ablaze an old observation post on mountain peak 505 inside Iraqi territory in the central sector.

At 0820 on 18 June, an Iranian shovel [preceding word in English] was observed giving maintenance to a road within the buffer zone where Iranian forces were deployed in the geographic coordinate 5622 of the central sector on the map of Qasr-e Shirin.

At 0600 on 19 June, the Iranian side fired five shots at Iraqi units in the geographic coordinate 925891 of the central sector on the map of al-Tahiri. At 1400, seven Iranians were seen along with a shovel and a (Yiva) vehicle reinforcing an Iranian post in the geographic coordinate 885055 of the same sector within the buffer zone.

At 0300 on the same day, the Iranian side sent a reconnaissance patrol inside Iraqi territory toward the 'Ayn al-'Abd border post in the central sector. The patrol opened fire at the Iraqi units in the area.

The memorandum indicates that at 0540 on the same day, the Iranian side fired two Kalashnikov volleys [words indistinct] from Hoseynabad in the geographic coordinate 4924 at the forward Iraqi units in the central sector.

On 20 June, an Iranian bulldozer was seen altering the road leading to the Iranian picket in the geographic coordinate 572228 opposite the Twyariq post within the buffer zone in the southern sector.

At 2000 on the same day, two Iranian vehicles approached Iraqi territory from deep inside Iran in the central sector. Five soldiers got off and planted mines in the area.

At 1045 on 21 June, two Iranian vehicles were seen carrying eight soldiers and an officer. They planted a regular minefield on the road leading to the Iraqi units in the geographic coordinate 415512 of the central sector.

The memorandum indicated that at 0400 on 23 June, the Iranian side opened fire 15 times at Iraqi units in the geographic coordinate 904893 within the buffer zone in the southern sector.

At 1800 on 24 June an Iranian helicopter was seen heading for Iraq from deep inside Iran toward Hawr al-Huwayzah and then landing in the Turabah area inside Iraq. Shortly after, it took off toward Iranian territory. At 1400 on 25 June the Iranians fired 20 times at forward Iraqi units in the geographic coordinate 893904 of the southern sector on the al-Tahiri map.

The memorandum emphasized that these fresh cease-fire violations underscore the determination of the Iranian Government to compromise the sovereignty and security of Iraq.

Iraq's permanent UN representative held the Iranian Government fully responsible for the negative consequences of these violations.

Iran's Velayati Views Situation in Iraq

NC2706160491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has stated that the regime of despot Saddam Husayn is not in a position to commit mischief in the region similar to

what it committed in the past. In an interview with the Voice of the Iraqi Opposition radio, he explained that the main issue at present is not what this regime may do in the region, but what the despotic regime is committing against the Iraqi people.

The Iranian foreign minister called on the despotic regime to give freedom to the Iraqi people. He expressed the hope that the Iraqi people will solve the problems from which they are suffering.

On the Kurdish leader's talks with the despotic regime, Velayati expressed his country's concern that these talks are a scheme that will not benefit the Kurds.

Velayati said Iran hopes the Kurds in Iraq will achieve their national rights within one Iraq, as is the case with the other segments of Iraqi society.

Forces Reportedly Attack Al-Dayr Police Station

NC2806071591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0444 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We have received the following symbolic statement from the popular forces' command in al-Basrah: In the name of God, destroyer of the arrogant. A combat unit of the Martyr al-Sadr Forces has again successfully attacked the enemy positions. At 2100 on 18 June, a huge group of Martyr al-Sadr Forces launched a heroic attack on the al-Dayr police station near Saddam's Third Corps headquarters in revolutionary al-Basrah's suburbs. The enemy troops did not return fire and began to flee before the mujahidin revolutionaries captured the post. The revolutionaries continued their attack throughout the night until 1000 and seized the police station. During the operation, the revolutionaries cut off the highway between the al-'Amarah and al- Basrah Governorates. Before their scheduled withdrawal, the heroes of the popular forces set fire to the police station and took large quantities of equipment and weapons, including two [word indistinct] RPG's and eight light Kalashnikov rifles.

The statement also carried the following report: Following the Martyr al-Sadr Forces' successful attack on al-Dayr police station north of al-Basrah and the revolutionaries' shouts of God is great, a large number of the enemy troops stationed at Saddam's Third Corps headquarters adjacent to the liberated police station fled. Enlisted men as well as officers were seen running from the area, thinking that the people had launched a new popular movement as part of the popular uprising.

Third Corps units arrived at the site after the revolutionaries had withdrawn according to schedule.

In another development, revolutionaries from the Martyr al-Sadr Forces distributed revolutionary leaflets in al-Basrah on 22 June, bearing the phrases: Revolution will be victorious with the will of Caliph 'Ali and his sharp sword; The revolution's victory is inevitable and imminent, God willing; O believers, cooperate with us for the service of Islam and the destruction of Saddam and his malicious aides.

'Revolutionary Kurds' Clash With Government

NC2806080591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0444 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] While Kurdish opposition leaders were announcing progress in their talks with the 'Aflaqi regime, bloody clashes occurred between revolutionary Kurds and defeated Saddam mercenaries.

Kurdish sources have reported that Kurdish revolutionaries fought with an 'Aflaqi Army convoy on the outskirts of (Sayyid Da'im) village in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate for eight hours early last week as Saddam's forces were advancing into an area controlled by the revolutionaries. The sources said the regime forces suffered human and material losses and that none of the Kurdish revolutionaries, who barricaded themselves and fought well, were hurt. The clash did not end until the defeated Saddam forces withdrew from the area. It is believed they were ordered to do so by Baghdad.

Kurdish Radio on Possibilities for Agreement

NC2806105991 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1812 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] One of the reasons the Kurdish problem in Iraq has been without a radical and final solution for so long was the successive Iraqi regimes' unwillingness to grant the Kurdish people its just and legitimate rights. Whatever the circumstances, whenever the authorities were compelled by adverse domestic or external conditions to negotiate with the Kurdish movement for liberation, they did so from the angle of profit and loss. They always compared the rights and privileges they granted the Kurdish people with the profits they got in return.

This attitude, not the conviction and belief that the Kurdish problem should be resolved on the basis of fulfilling the Kurdish people's legitimate rights, that this problem has remained, festered, and grown. This is also why security and stability has not been achieved in Iraqi and why national unity has not been strengthened, despite the large-scale repression and military operations and the well-studied and programmed racist policies pursued by the authorities to extinguish and repress our people's hopes.

The problem, therefore, stems from the Iraqi authorities' lack of desire or conviction, for three decades, to resolve this problem peacefully and in a fair and democratic way that ensures everyone's rights: a solution that would entrench national Iraqi unity, strengthen Arab-Kurdish power, and end all the military operations and domestic

infighting so that everyone can contribute to the building of a stable and strong Iraq and enjoy prosperity, happiness, security, and stability.

Today, when all efforts and hopes are pinned on the conclusion of a final and comprehensive agreement that would radically end the Kurdish problem once and for all, it must be said that the authorities' view of the agreement from the angle of profit and loss—and not from the angle of the belief in the justice of the Kurdish problem and the need to resolve it radically and democratically—will keep the problem without a real and lasting solution. The agreement will, therefore, be subject to whatever circumstances and balances of power change in favor of the regime to collapse and to a repetition of the bitter past experiences.

For this reason and in view of the crisis of confidence between the masses and the regime, which was brought to the surface by the regime's practices in the past several years, the insistence on refusing to fulfill our people's national and historic rights will strengthen the element of doubt and suspicion that the Iraqi authorities do not really believe in a radical and lasting solution that would end this problem forever. It will also sow the seeds of doubts and instability in Iraq and the region. This means that everyone should try to eliminate it, exert persistent efforts, and take quick, practical, and tangible steps to rebuild Kurdistan and Iraq—an Iraq that is void of racist policies and ideas and where real democracy is the criteria for resolving all conflicts and problems that face Iraq now and in the future.

Opposition Reports on Regime's Alleged Crimes

JN2606170291 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1529 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jun (SANA)—The office of Ayatollah Mudarrisi, one of the leaders of the Iraqi opposition, has said that the Iraqi regime recently stepped up patrols and built several inspection points in an attempt to control night confrontations in the suburbs of Baghdad between members of the popular resistance and elements loyal to the regime.

In its daily report on the uprising of the Iraqi people against the regime, the office explained that the authorities of the Iraqi regime, which earlier announced the dissolution of what used to be called revolution courts, formed a new organ called Rashad whose task is to pursue and assassinate participants in the uprising. This organ committed a series of crimes in the streets of al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Najaf, and al-Thawrah city in Baghdad. Moreover, it killed several of the symbols of the uprising.

The citizens discovered a mass grave at al-Razazah, close to Karbala', of Iraqis poisoned at the hands of the regime.

Hammadi on Efforts Under Way To Cancel Embargo

JN2706153891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi has stressed the importance of the role of professional and popular unions and organizations in helping curb high prices and bring about prosperity for the public. Speaking at a meeting with the leader and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions, the prime minister said that extraordinary efforts are underway to get the unjust economic embargo imposed on Iraq lifted, as it is considered the direct cause of high prices.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi called the trade unions and professional organizations to help mobilize public opinion to pressure for fixed wages and reduced prices. He said this could be done through popular awareness campaigns and by devising an urgent action plan to practically contribute to reducing prices. The prime minister referred to the practical steps the state has taken to overcome the obstacles to reduced prices. He said at the head of these steps were supplying fuel and cutting its prices.

Banks To Lift Restrictions on Cash Withdrawals

JN2706115591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Finance Minister Majid 'Abd Ja'far has said that banks and saving funds in Iraq will lift restrictions on cash withdrawals for the public next Thursday, 4 July.

In a statement to the INA correspondent, he said that the decision to lift restrictions on withdrawals follows the completion of necessary measures allowing banks to do their work normally, to invest national savings, to rebuild what the aggressive war destroyed, and to bring economic life back to normal.

RCC Approves Political Parties Bill

JN2706173591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command this evening.

During the meeting, the final formula for the political parties bill was approved.

It has been decided to refer the bill to the National Assembly for discussion and approval during an exceptional session the assembly will be called to soon.

RCC Decision Returns Confiscated Plots of Land

JN2606171191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] issued decision No. 200 on 24 June providing for the return of plots of land confiscated in accordance with now canceled RCC decision No. 1,223 of 13 November 1983 because of the owners' failure to stake them out.

The decision states that if it is found that the confiscated land has been sold, the selling price shall be paid to its owners.

The canceled RCC decision made it mandatory for the owners of plots of land situated within city limits to stake them out using the proper construction materials within a two-year period or else face confiscation.

Peace Marchers Arrive in Babil Subdistrict

JN2706160091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The international peace march arrived in the al-Yusufiyah subdistrict in Babil Governorate today after starting off from the al-'Amiriyah shelter in Baghdad yesterday morning. Participants visited the capital of the al-Yusufiyah subdistrict and municipality where they were briefed on the level of services citizens are receiving and on the efforts to upgrade these services as part of the ongoing reconstruction campaign to remove all effects of sabotage and destruction caused to civilian installations and facilities as a result of the American-Atlantic aggression against Iraq.

The marchers condemned the criminal acts the forces of evil and aggression perpetrated against the Iraqi people and targeting scientific, technological, economic, service, and health institutions serving the citizenry.

The participants, who represent 25 international and humanitarian organizations, will continue their journey to the historic Babil Governorate.

Bush, Schwarzkopf Remarks on War Aims 'Identical'

JN2806103591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0828 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that in his recent statements, U.S. President George Bush revealed the concealed objective of the aggression against Iraq and exposed Washington's racist role which seeks to tilt the balance in favor of Israel against the Arab nation.

In a recent press interview, Bush said that the United States' credibility has been enhanced because it defended Israel by striking at its archenemy, Iraq.

In a news analysis today, the paper says that Bush's remarks do not differ from what General Norman Schwarzkopf said in an interview with an IDF radio correspondent.

AL-THAWRAH compares the psychological makeup of Schwarzkopf to that of U.S. General Custer, who annihilated an entire Indian village and who was later found to be crazy, and had dreams of becoming the U.S. president. The paper says these two share the same characteristics with General Patton, the crazy general who dreamed of fame and lights during World War II.

The paper concludes: As the remarks of the U.S. President and Gen. Schwarzkopf have been found to be identical, then Bush does not differ psychologically from Gen. Custer or Gen. Patton. Thus, following the 30-state aggression against Iraq, Bush deserves to be called the new Caesar. He also reminds us of the crazy Emperor Caligula in Albert Camus' novel.

U.S. Accused of Disavowing Promises on Palestine

JN2806110991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0923 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Bahgdad, 28 Jun (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that after the 30-state aggression the U.S. Administration began to disavow its alleged promises with which it deceived the world with regard to resolving the Palestinian issue.

In an analysis published today under the headline "The Chapters of the U.S. Tug-of-War Game", the paper says: When Iraq called for a comprehensive and radical solution to all regional problems, the Washington government and the Arab governments subservient to it rejected this request giving flimsy excuses. The United States claimed that after the Gulf crisis it intended to resolve regional problems. That was one of the U.S. means of deception to suspend and push away any peaceful solution so it could persist in its policy of destroying the capabilities of the Arab region and gain permanent political concessions in favor of its spoilt child, Israel.

The paper adds: Despite this, some Arab regimes continue to be dragged behind this series of concessions and have accepted a regional peace conference. At the same time Sharon's government stirred up another crisis in order to obstruct the convening of this conference, which is the Arab sides's minimum demand. The paper notes that the new tempest created by the Zionists revolves around two points; first, creating confusion over the understanding and interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242, and second, casting doubts about the legitimacy of the Palestinian representation in an attempt to exclude the PLO from the negotiating table.

The paper continues: Persisting in arbitrariness, official American and Zionist circles began to propagate the intention to transform the regional conference into

another formula confined to a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Thus, the plans for an international or a regional conference have been rendered stillborn by the United States on the pretext that the basic value of a political solution focuses on Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. Hence, the failing Arab regimes found themselves once again in the jaws of the pliers to which they surrendered themselves and sold their conscience and cause. Meanwhile, Jordan and the PLO continue their steadfastness and adherence to the Palestinian inalienable rights.

The paper explains that the United States opened another chapter of its political game after much procrastination, maneuvering, and concessions from the Arab side, and especially after it attacked the center of revolutionary Arab power in Iraq, which constitutes the strike arm which restored to the Arabs their political and military strategic balance vis-a-vis the Zionist danger. The United States then sought to curb the Arab will by confining the Palestine question to specific parties known for their submissiveness and treason—Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia—and attempting to replace the PLO with another negotiator.

Sharon Declares Green Line 'No Longer Exists'

TA2706192991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The Construction and Housing Ministry is planning to expand the Jewish settlements in Nahal 'Iron by 10,000 housing units on both sides of the Green Line. At a ceremony inaugurating a new neighborhood for immigrants in the settlement of Qatzir, which is inside the Green Line, Minister Ari'el Sharon today declared that this line, the Green Line, no longer existed. Our correspondent Gil Sadan reports:

[Passage omitted] Sharon today reiterated that the Green Line no longer exists. The settlement in Qatzir is part of a widespread plan to settle Jews on both sides of what was once known as the Green Line—new immigrants as well.

[Begin Sharon recording] This plan is designed to allow approximately 200,000 people—and I estimate that no small number of them will be immigrants—to settle in an area that is comfortable in all aspects from the standpoint of climate and scenery, and which permits us to avoid overcrowding in the coastal plain where people are already crowded, and still leave some green areas along Israel's coastline. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Sharon recording] The matter does not require any relocation of the Arab population, it does not entail the confiscation of land—these are state lands. These are high areas which overlook large concentrations of Jewish populations. The stronger Israel appears, the less the chances of war. Therefore, settlement is the best obstacle to war. [end recording]

It should be noted that the entire settlement of Qatzir lies within the Green Line, but the cornerstone placed at the new neighborhood is made of a stone carved into the shape of Greater Israel.

106,000 New Apartments in West Bank Settlements

TA2806101591 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 28 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by Hagar Enosh]

[Excerpts] The Construction and Housing Ministry is preparing a new multi-year plan for the establishment of 106,000 additional apartments in Judaea and Samaria on an area of more than 90,000 dunams. This is a sign of the growth of the Judaea and Samaria Jewish population by some 400,000. Experts estimate this settlement plan's cost between $13 and $14 billion.

The following is the Judaea and Samaria settlement plan:

District	Area in dunams	No. of apartments
North Samaria	14,200	14,400
Central Samaria	11,800	18,550
West Samaria	15,050	17,700
Trans-Samaria	5,500	7,300
West Binyamin	19,700	16,200
Mount Binyamin	12,000	21,150
'Etzyon Bloc	14,750	11,100
Total	93,000	106,400

The plan, which is being published for the first time here, assigns a special category of urgency to 18,000 housing units in 12 different locations, including one temporary settlement; six settlements founded by Amana, the Gush Emunim settling body; and a settlement by the name of Tirtza, which has not yet been established.

Some of the plans are already in work stages in private planning offices.

To carry out these building plans, the Construction and Housing Ministry set up a new body, named the Administration for Planning and Construction in the Judaea and Samaria District, about six weeks ago. The administration, whose existence has not been officially announced, is headed by Dan Stav (nicknamed Sari). Stav, an architect and city planner by trade, is the former head of the Infrastructure and Settlement Planning Department in the National Security Unit established by Ari'el Sharon during his tenure as defense minister. [passage omitted]

In a detailed answer to MAMON's questions, Arye Bar, the director general of the Construction and Housing Ministry, said that "at this stage, we are merely looking into possibilities, rather than preparing operational plans." Bar added that the Construction and Housing Ministry expands existing settlements with official approval; it does not establish new settlements. He asserted that the ministry cooperates with the Jewish Agency "when the need arises."

The new plan, which comprises 110 sites, does indeed speak almost entirely of expanding existing settlements. The new settlements are usually situated on locations formerly approved by the government. Of the 110 sites, only 10 do not appear on the official settlement map, which was last updated in January 1990 (no new settlement has been approved since then.) One location which does not appear on the official maps is Zivanit, where 5,000 housing units are planned.

These 10 sites may be settlements that had been approved under different names. The changing of names is not rare in Judaea and Samaria, because in the past, approval was often given to settlements under temporary names.

Asked about these settlements, Arye Bar said: "I know of no approval to establish these settlements; furthermore, we act only in accordance with government resolutions."

The administration's plan includes numerous small settlements which are to be expanded by neighborhoods

many times larger than the settlements' present size. Tapuah, for instance, currently consists of 11 permanent houses, 42 mobile homes, and 40 apartments under construction. The expansion plan for Tapuah, entitled "Tapuah West," envisages 500 additional housing units.

Another Judaea and Samaria region, the 'Etzyon Bloc, is scheduled to get 5,200 more housing units featured as an expansion of the temporary settlement of Tzoref.

Shamir on Peace Process, Ties With U.S.

TA2806111691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 28 Jun 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dan Shilon—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shilon] Where is Syria headed today: toward war or peace?

[Shamir] Syrian policy is the same today as it has been for many years.

[Shilon] How, then, do you intend to get it out of the cycle of war and bring it to the negotiating table?

[Shamir] I do not believe that the policy of any state can be changed by external elements, unless those external elements cause a drastic change in the alignment of forces within that state through war. Israel cannot remove Syria from the cycle of hostility against it by regular means.

[Shilon] Are you trying to suggest that Israel should go to war with Syria in order to change the internal alignment of forces there?

[Shamir] No, I am not saying that; however, anyone who thinks Israel should decide to remove Syria from the cycle of hostility against it is in effect proposing a war against Syria. I do not support this view.

[Shilon] Can Syria not be brought to the negotiating table by peaceful means? Could an Israeli declaration that UN Resolution 242 applies to the Golan Heights not bring Syria closer to negotiations?

[Shamir] Resolution 242 speaks of withdrawal from territories, without specification and through negotiations.

[Shilon] The American interpretation of this resolution includes withdrawal from territories in Judaea, Samaria, and the Golan Heights.

[Shamir] We have a different interpretation of this resolution. Our interpretation appears in the Camp David accords, which were signed long after Resolution 242 was passed. The Camp David accords do not mention any withdrawals.

[Shilon] Should Israel not accept just this part of the U.S. interpretation, thus bringing Jordan and Syria to the negotiating table?

[Shamir] We do not argue over such matters with the Americans. We will discuss it during negotiations which will indeed be based on Resolution 242.

[Shilon] Are you not disturbed by the impatience or, at times, even worse attitude of the U.S. Administration in view of the Israeli Government's political stands?

[Shamir] Peace negotiations are a complex and thorough business which takes a long time. It is impossible to be impatient and conduct negotiations. At present, we are discussing the initial stage of the negotiations. Once they start, they will not last a short time; therefore, one should come armed with a lot of patience.

[Shilon] This is not what the Americans think and feel, hence the sense of a deterioration in U.S.-Israeli relations.

[Shamir] This is not true. I see no signs of impatience or deterioration in U.S.-Israeli relations.

[Shilon] Why are you afraid of saying "yes" to an ongoing international conference, under the auspices of a UN observer, without the United Nations having the status of a judge or arbitrator?

[Shamir] In general, I object to an international conference. We do not need an international conference. I favor direct negotiations between us and each of our neighbors. To do that, we do not need any conference or interference by a foreign element, including the United Nations.

[Shilon] By saying that, are you going back on your earlier agreement to Secretary of State James Baker's initiative concerning the convention of a conference?

[Shamir] No. After all, we agreed only once, in 1987, that there will be a one-time gathering of all the heads of the Middle East countries, after which direct negotiations between ourselves and each Arab country will start. This is what we insist on today, as well.

[Shilon] From this I gather that if the United States invites us to a conference it is trying to convene, Israel will not attend?

[Shamir] We will discuss it when we get the invitation.

[Shilon] But you are already stating that you will not agree to such a conference.

[Shamir] We do not need a conference. We are opposed to it now, as we have been in the past. We view it as a means to avoid direct negotiations. It conflicts with our line and corresponds with the Arab line.

[Shilon] When you say that the United States is not impatient with us, do you mean on the settlement issue as well?

[Shamir] The Americans are opposed to Jewish settlements in areas in dispute, but this should not be viewed as impatience. This is a disagreement.

[Shilon] In view of this disagreement, is it wise to continue setting up settlements—which the United States regards as a provocation—and risk losing U.S. guarantees for immigrant absorption?

[Shamir] There is no need for provocation. This word must be removed from the dictionary and codes of behavior. Disagreements should be discussed.

[Shilon] Let me ask this more directly: Are you willing to give up the U.S. guarantees for the continued settlement drive?

[Shamir] I do not know whose idea the guarantees were. I believe it came from U.S. sources. We certainly need a lot of help to absorb immigration from anyone who can provide us with such aid. Europe must also join in this. This a humanitarian operation of the first order. It is the obligation, as well as the right, of every civilized country to take part in this great enterprise.

[Shilon] If, however, you are faced with the choice—as our ambassador in Washington, Zalman Shoval, termed it—between U.S. guarantees and the continuation of the settlements, what will it be?

[Shamir] Ambassador Shoval defined no such dilemma, and there is no such dilemma.

[Shilon] Ambassador Shoval certainly did say this.

[Shamir] He did not use the words you have. We want to do all that is necessary and called for to get the aid.

[Shilon] What implication does this have for the settlement drive?

[Shamir] I see no drive. There is settlement throughout Israel. There is a construction drive in every part of Eretz Yisra'el, and this will continue.

[Shilon] Will new immigrants be directed to the settlements?

[Shamir] New immigrants will not be directed to settlements in dispute, because this is a commitment we have made.

[Shilon] Does the ongoing construction work in Judaea and Samaria not distance King Husayn from the negotiating table?

[Shamir] Each of the two countries has clear stands, and each is familiar with the stands of the other.

[Shilon] There were signs that King Husayn is willing to meet you and join negotiations. This is no longer discussed. Why?

[Shamir] Even when this is discussed, it does not mean that a meeting will be held the next day. There is no connection between the things that are said and the things that are left unsaid.

[Shilon] In the past you have held secret meetings with King Husayn. What is needed today for the meetings to be held in broad daylight?

[Shamir] I have held many meetings in my life, but I never heard of meetings I held with King Husayn.

[Shilon] Perhaps you did not hear of them but did attend them?

[Shamir] I did not attend such meetings.

[Shilon] Shim'on Peres believes that today we are seeking the Jordanian option, that option or political move that you totally rejected in the past.

[Shamir] There is no connection between what Shim'on Peres wanted and wants today, and what I want. This is not a question of a Jordanian option. We want negotiations with all the Arab countries which would lead to peace.

[Shilon] Do you accept Shim'on Peres' idea of a confederation of the Gaza Strip, Jordan, and parts of Judaea and Samaria?

[Shamir] We do not ask ourselves to whom we ought to hand over Judaea and Samaria. There is no need to hand them over to anyone. Those lands are part of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Shilon] Is it by accident that you failed to mention Gaza?

[Shamir] I am willing to add Gaza to that.

[Shilon] Why is Gaza so important to you?

[Shamir] One might say that we do not need any part of the State of Israel. One can name dozens or hundreds of places where we do not have a foothold, but if a nation believes this to be its homeland and territory, it must guard it.

[Shilon] Still, why do you insist on holding on to the Gaza Strip hornets nest?

[Shamir] There are many hornets nests. They say that the right to Eretz Yisra'el is won through suffering. This is part of the suffering. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] Are you determined to head the Likud in the next elections, as well?

[Shamir] No, I have not decided that yet. This is up to the Likud to decide. Later, if the need arises, I will make my decision.

[Shilon] One of your advisers, Yosi Ahime'ir, has already made the decision for you and stated that you will head the Likud.

[Shamir] He may make decisions. Perhaps this is what he prefers, but there are things that I decide alone.

[Shilon] There are people inside your party—Ministers Sharon and Levi and Mayors Lahat and Landau, for example—who challenge your leadership.

[Shamir] Some of them do not challenge my leadership, and as for others, I do not care what they say.

[Shilon] To whom are you referring?

[Shamir] I will not say.

[Shilon] Will fatigue be a factor in your decision to head the Likud in the next elections?

[Shamir] This may certainly be one of the considerations. At present, I feel no fatigue.

[Shilon] Thank you.

Shamir—Understanding With U.S. on Aid Sought

TA2806063091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Israel strives to reach an understanding with the United States on the issue of aid for immigrant absorption. These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in an address yesterday to the Jewish Agency convention. Mr. Shamir said: We were always able to overcome difficulties in the past, and at present, our chief ambition is to reach an understanding with the Americans. Sarit Mikha'eli reports:

[Begin recording] [Mikha'eli] The problem Israel has encountered in its efforts to promote the peace process stems from the demand for tangible concessions that are liable to affect its security. The demand was made despite the fact that there has been no change in the Arab countries' attitude toward Israel. These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. We have the right to demand such a change, he said.

[Shamir] Would it be right to approach the peace negotiations table with a loaded gun? Because of our agelong yearning for peace, we have presented our neighbors with one demand only: that they join us in direct and bilateral negotiations without outside intervention and without the pressure of alien elements.

[Mikha'eli] Shamir also referred to immigration from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia, adding: It is time there was aliyah from other countries, as well.

[Shamir] We believe the Jewish people and the free world should join forces in a campaign and demand categorically that Syria open its gates to its Jews. Damascus has no right to hold its 4,000 Jews prisoners in contravention of every concept of human rights upheld by the civilized world. Let our voice be heard! Rulers of Syria: Let my people go!

[Mikha'eli] The prime minister made these remarks at the closing session of the Jewish Agency convention. He reiterated the government position on the absence of a link between settlements in the territories and U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption. [end recording]

Settlements Termed 'Basic Human Right'

TA2406105791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jun 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Linking Loans to Settlements"]

[Text] To link U.S. government guarantees for loans to assist immigrant absorption to the freezing of Jewish settlement activity is to surrender to political opportunism. Only the most cynical would attach such conditions to humanitarian aid, and only the most callous would tolerate them.

Had Israel made its offer to assist economic development in Gaza, for example, conditional on a halt to the expansion of Arab villages in Israel or in the administered territories; or if the U.S. had linked the rescue of earthquake victims in the Soviet Union to the prohibition of ethnic-Russian settlement in the occupied territories of Kaliningrad oblast or Moldavia, the world would have shuddered with rage. But the U.S. administration seems ready to impose such conditions on Israel without fear of opprobrium.

What makes the reported American linkage particularly offensive is not only that it constitutes a demand for political concessions before the start of negotiations, but that it is a patently anti-Jewish discriminatory move. Clearly, no one would object to Baptist settlements on the barren hills of Judaea or Samaria.

Israel needs the loans to absorb hundreds of thousands of Jews who have excellent reasons to fear for their safety if they stay in their countries of origin. The vast majority have nowhere to go but Israel. The rest of the world may be slightly more open to them than it was to Hitler's victims in the 1930s; but not much. Only Israel wants all of them, regardless of what they may be able to contribute. Like no other country, Israel is a haven for all Jews. The ingathering of the Jewish diaspora is the incarnation of the Zionist dream.

But opening the country's gates to unlimited numbers of Jews from Ethiopia and the Soviet Union is first and foremost a humanitarian act no one else is willing to undertake. To make it possible, Israel does not seek American grants or loans. It only wants the U.S. government to facilitate bank loans by guaranteeing them. Nor is the undertaking an economic gamble. Israel has unfailingly met its debt repayments on time, and it has neither asked nor been granted loan "forgivenesses."

Moreover, by absorbing and nurturing the brain pool which the immigration contains, Israel is adding an incalculable, priceless asset to the democracies. One can imagine—or perhaps one truly cannot—how much the free world would have gained had the minds destroyed in the Holocaust been rescued.

Using the issue as a club might have made sense if the settlements were of questionable legal status, or if the Jewish home-builders in the administered territories had dispossessed others. But the Jewish towns and villages in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza are not illegal, nor have they caused anyone any hardship. On the contrary, they provide employment to the Arabs of the areas and a market for their agricultural products. In fact, it is the Israeli presence which has made the Arab inhabitants stay and grow. In the 19 years of Jordanian rule, a full third of this population emigrated. To call Jewish presence, then, an obstacle to peace demands a considerable leap of the imagination.

If anything, it is the fierce Arab opposition to the presence of Jews which must raise eyebrows. After all, this presence does not affect the political disposition of the areas. Does the Arab objection mean that if the territories become an Arab entity, no Jews would be allowed to live there; that the area would become **Judenrein** [free of Jews] like Saudi Arabia and Jordan? If that is the case, it is hard to see how objections to the settlements can inspire confidence in Arab professions of peace.

Israel cannot permit the right of Jews to build a home anywhere they wish to be sacrificed on the altar of financial need. It is an inviolable, basic human right. With the help of American Jewry, Israel must enlighten the administration and Congress on what is at stake, for there is clearly a misunderstanding over the principle involved. (The misunderstanding is probably exacerbated by Israelis who oppose the settlements for political reasons. Though even they do not question the **right** of Jews to live in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza). What Americans must realize is quite simple: Banning Jews from Shiloh in Samaria is at least as unthinkable as banning them from Shiloh, Virginia.

Minister Sees Rift With U.S., Turn to USSR

TA2106114691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Jun 91 p 17

[Article by Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology: "Israel in a One-Superpower World"]

[Text] One of the things which most characterize the U.S. Administration's attitude toward the Israeli Government recently has been the marking of "the good guys and the bad guys" in Israel. The "guilty" are pinpointed and excoriated. Construction and Housing Minister Sharon is not received, Ambassador Shoval is publicly rebuked, and this week we heard of "that evil man" among the prime minister's advisers, which probably referred to Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office. On the other hand, the secretary of state used the term "my friend David Levi" right after the first meeting between the two men. Really, love at first sight....

This practice is not acceptable diplomatic behavior. If the United States has any grievances against Israel, it can make its case and attack the government and the prime minister; it cannot give out grades to its members. We have already experienced collective criticism and punishment in the past—as in the "reevaluation" policy and the freeze on all arms sales to Israel in March 1975, when the Rabin government rejected Kissinger's demands and proposals. We may get a collective punishment this time, as well. The personal attacks on officials in the Israeli political system, however, are new. That is why I have asserted that this approach is not far from a U.S. demand to be the one to endorse the appointments to certain posts here. The U.S. pressure has become arrogant, as though we are some sort of protectorate which must be put in its proper place. (We well remember similar situations throughout Jewish history: The two Hasmonaean brothers who turned to Emperor Pompey and authorized him to decide who was "worthy" of reigning in Judaea.)

Three years ago, we witnessed the pressure to kill the Lavi project, pressure which stemmed from fears of creating competition for U.S. industry. Although this also constituted some intervention in Israel's domestic affairs and plans, the fact that part of the funds came from U.S. sources gave the United States the right to demand how its money be used. Similarly, six months ago David Levi was asked to promise that the loans for immigrant absorption would not be used beyond what were Israel's borders on 5 June 1967 (including no building in East Jerusalem). This is interference in our internal affairs, but is justified insomuch as the funding is American.

On the other hand, the secretary of state overstepped the boundaries of good taste on that occasion, by extorting a promise that Israel would regularly report all building and development activity in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, even if it were carried out with Israeli Government money or with Jewish financing—as though we had asked the United States for a report on building in California (or in Vietnam, at the time). Perhaps the administration's harsh attitude can be partly put down to the fact that the leading group in the United States comes from areas with no significant Jewish population and is made up of people who have no reputation for being pro-Israeli; however, I believe that this results from something much more profound and serious as far as Israel is concerned.

The strategic balance in the Middle East after 1988 is no longer the same. Until then, two conflicting U.S. interests were at play: On the one hand, there was the desire to maintain close contacts with the Arab countries, especially with the oil-producing states; and on the other, there was the fear that the Soviet Union might attain too much of a hold in the region through its Arab allies. In 1957, following the rise in al-Nasir's popularity, there was the fear that Lebanon and Jordan might fall to his supporters (and through them, into the hands of the Soviet Union). In 1971 Syria almost invaded Jordan. In

the Yom Kippur War, the Soviets consolidated a pan-Arab alliance, which, had it been able to achieve victory, would have later been able to seize control of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. In all these instances, the Israeli presence—with our military might—proved decisive in foiling the Soviet designs.

The strategic ties between Israel and the United States have been formed within this context since 1975 and were formalized in 1981 with a strategic agreement. The United States occasionally used to pressure Israel on political issues (the Rogers plan in 1969 and the Reagan plan in 1982) to show its support for the Arabs, make things easier for the rulers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, and portray themselves in the eyes of Arabs as fighters on behalf of "Palestine" and thus strengthen their position. Nevertheless, any tangible pressure was swiftly eased to avoid any weakening of Israel, the strategic ally.

After 1988 and glasnost, the pictured altered beyond recognition. The Soviet Union, with problems of its own, has practically disappeared from the international arena and the Middle East, and it no longer aspires to new territorial conquests. In fact, it lacks the ability to equal the United States in granting special benefits to its allies—who have indeed abandoned it. Syria, the bastion of the Soviet presence, is now in the American camp; it even "fought" Iraq during the Gulf war. The United States gave it what only the United States can: tacit approval, which enabled Syria to take over Christian Beirut and end Lebanon's "Christian state" (1974-1991)—choosing the moment when international attention was focused on the Gulf area in anticipation of a war. The United States maintained a silence, thereby guaranteeing the silence of the United Nations and of other parts of the world. The unshared control of the United Nations by the United States is another sign of the uni-superpower era.

In the absence of a Soviet threat, the Israeli basis has become redundant. The past three years saw the disappearance of the most prominent factor which had caused the United States to wish to see a strong Israel, and there is nothing that can balance the interest to strengthen the Arab countries.

The new situation, which was already apparent to the American establishment in late 1988, prompted the man who would be president—then, Vice President Bush—to appeal to Secretary of State Shultz to revoke the boycott of the PLO (announced in 1975) and to launch a dialogue with that organization. (The United States being a democracy, it was nevertheless forced to stop the dialogue under congressional pressure, after it was proved that the PLO had not abandoned terrorism.) The U.S. attitude toward us was very tough during the political negotiations of 1989, the preparations for the Gulf War in 1990, and again, in the course of the recently resumed political talks—all this without even resorting to the illusion of similar toughness toward Syria, for instance; they simply "didn't give a damn," as the young say.

During the Gulf crisis, French President Mitterrand attempted to prevent the Americans from having a rationale for attacking Iraq. Having done some looking around, Mitterrand found a way "to get Saddam Husayn off the tall tree" he had climbed. His proposal was to promise Saddam "superpower treatment of the Palestine problem," in return for which he was to withdraw from Kuwait. Saddam could have claimed he had invaded Kuwait merely to "push" forward the Palestinian problem.

The United States refused to endorse this linkage [preceding word in English here and elsewhere], insisting on its resolution to get Saddam out of Kuwait. However, it did not reject the linkage out of sympathy for Israeli stands. On the contrary, the American plan did indeed link the Eretz Yisra'el issue with the Gulf war, only in an opposite manner: The Arab countries that joined the U.S. coalition were promised a "reward" in the shape of American pressure for a solution of the "Eretz Yisra'el problem." Instead of linkage benefiting Saddam, the Americans insisted on linkage in favor of Syria and Egypt. This is the background of the zealousness which characterizes the U.S. establishment's recent treatment of the "peace process." The linkage with the Gulf war and the desire to preserve the achieved hegemony throughout the Arab world created the motivation to pressure us. The disappearance of the USSR has removed the brakes. Therefore, we can expect pressure we have not experienced before.

In the short term, there is only one way to avert this pressure: Intensify Israel's public relations campaign in the United States and take very vigorous action in both houses of the U.S. Congress. It is only there that brakes capable of eliminating pressure can be created. I am not about to discuss the Israeli policy's goals, but even those who are prepared to make territorial concessions will need tools to halt the pressure at some point, because the Arabs will continue to demand more than the "dovish" Israel is ready to give them.

In the long term, a rift in U.S.-Israeli relations cannot be ruled out. In a world where only one superpower survives, it is almost unavoidable for that superpower to prefer 21 Arab countries and oil over the one problem-ridden State of Israel. The chance for alternative support lies in rather "surprising" directions: the Soviet Union, East Europe, China. As with France between 1956 and 1966, and with the Soviet Union in 1948, there can again be interests in the wake of which "second-row superpowers," primarily the Soviet Union, will forge ties with and extend aid to Israel. This will naturally depend on us, on our ability to take advantage of the new Soviet openness for developing trade relations, joint projects, and so forth.

The immigration from the USSR can be an important bridge. Everybody—the Americans, the Europeans, the Japanese—are today vying for the Soviet market. We have an edge, because Soviet Jewry is familiar with the structure and is capable of considerably cutting red tape

in trade ties, for instance. The Soviet Union has difficulty paying with hard currency, but if we wish, we can think of deals based on payments with third party merchandise. I myself have devoted efforts to forging ties with the Soviet Union over the past year. The Soviet Union will remain a potential superpower, because despite its grave economic situation, it consists of nearly 300 million inhabitants and enjoys geographic deployment which gives it enormous power.

There is another interesting aspect which demonstrates the cynicism inherent in the current American approach to us. When we were attacked with Scud missiles, the U.S. President exerted tremendous pressure on the Israeli Government, demanding that it refrain from retaliating. The premise was that Arab hostility against Israel was so great that it suffices for Israel to fire at Iraq to alienate the Arab allies and to cause them to join the Iraqi side. When the issue at stake was the American interest in preserving the coalition, which included eight Arab countries, the Americans presumed that the Arab hostility toward us was of the greatest dimensions.

Today, when the issue at stake is the Israeli interest in "the peace process," an opposite picture is being surprisingly presented. The Arabs are "moderate," they want peace and will not endanger Israel. In his address at the Wiesenthal Institute in Los Angeles this week, President Bush spoke of the disappearance of the Arab hostility toward Israel. When Israel's security interests are at stake, they assert that the Arabs are willing to forget the hostility, and it is Israel that should take the risks and prove its faith in peace by exposing itself to them. In a speech at the end of May, President Bush noted the need for Israel to expose the nuclear means it allegedly possesses. As if nothing else endangering peace in the Middle East was left any more....THE NEW YORK TIMES has also devoted an editorial urging Israel "to waive its nuclear deterrence" for the sake of peace in the Middle East. All this is being said while the United States is about to spend $24 billion to arm the Arabs, as compared to the $700 million it is giving us, and while it is becoming more and more obvious that Saddam Husayn's installations, in which he will manufacture nuclear weapons, remained intact.

It is plain that we must beware of the trap of illusions. The leaders of a nation, only a part of which has just survived a holocaust, will be committing a most horrible sin if they fail to behave as "holocaust-complex-ridden" people. We have witnessed the fate of the Kurds; similar examples from our region can be found in abundance. There are no substitutes for "military power and geography," which President Bush mentioned with disdain while discussing our security in his Wiesenthal Institute address. Naturally, we will all be very glad to live to see the disappearance of hostility—but not at the expense of security.

Shamir Seen To Prefer Settlements to Immigration

TA2706123691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jun 91 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Price of Integrity"]

[Text] Before he lost his pants, Ambassador Zalman Shoval managed to call on the government to choose between settlements and guarantees. Everyone agrees that it was a brave statement; however, it was unnecessary. This time our ambassador in Washington got himself into trouble with the prime minister for no reason. Yitzhaq Shamir has already made the difficult decision. The other members of the government, it has been proven, are irrelevant. The public, which will pay the price for the decision, is not being asked; it is not even being told the whole truth: Its government prefers settlements over guarantees. In other words: Each Israeli household will have to pay approximately 15,000 shekels because of its government's refusal to freeze the settlement drive in the territories, even temporarily. This is the sum you get when you divide $10 million by the total number of Israeli households.

There is only one alternative to burdening the public: Tens of thousands of homeless and unemployed immigrants, thousands of Jews who have been neglected, will pass the word to thousands of others waiting in the USSR that the slim pickings of the diaspora are preferable to the garbage cans of Greater Israel. This is the meaning of the "integrity" in whose name Shamir is gambling away the great Zionist endeavor he has the opportunity to fulfill.

The harshest critics claim that Shamir will not mourn if aliyah is stopped. Why else does he provoke the Americans day and night? It would have been enough for him to set up settlements and keep quiet, but the number of declarations being made about settlement is greater than the number of settlements themselves. His bureau gives Ambassador William Brown the runaround when he asks for updated information concerning plans for settlement in the territories. Israelis who met with James Baker say that the tricks being used to circumvent the commitments David Levi gave him (in return for the guarantees for a $400 million loan) are unsettling the secretary of state. If it were not for the foreign minister's decision to assume responsibility and risk another clash with Yosi Ben-Aharon, it is doubtful whether the prime minister would have signed that letter to this very day.

It is hard to suspect a Zionist prime minister of wanting to sabotage aliyah, but he may simply be "out of his league" in dealing with this issue. He is very good at defense, at survival, and at putting things off. Extraordinary challenges, mighty initiatives, and great vision have never been Shamir's strong points. He intervenes in absorption issues only when they turn into crises. Jewish Agency men and absorption activists tell him what television viewers hear on the evening newsreel from immigrants who report that rumors about absorption difficulties are putting off many who wait in the USSR.

If he were losing sleep over this, rather than over the reactions of Rehav'am Ze'evi or Yuval Ne'eman, he should have tried to reach a settlement arrangement that would satisfy the Americans. Bush and Baker would probably have settled for a promise that the settlement rate would not exceed that which was in effect before the gates of the USSR were opened.

The prime minister, however, prefers to dig in his heels and use bizarre arguments, such as the demand that those who helped get the Jews out of the USSR must help absorb them in their new-old homeland. The United States has always joined struggles for free immigration, but even this rich country would have gone bankrupt had it financed the absorption of all those who came from behind what was once called the Iron Curtain. To establish the claim that every Jew has the right to settle on both sides of the Green Line, Shamir is making an effort to redo reality by declaring that the Arabs also have the right to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. Is he not familiar with the Supreme Court ruling in the case of Muhammad Burqan versus the State of Israel, in which the last Arab family was evicted from the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem's Old City? Can a Bethlehem-born Arab really buy an apartment on Jerusalem's Balfour Street or, for that matter, even on Salah al-Din Street?

The prime minister did not need Shoval's interview on Qol Yisra'el to realize that the U.S. Administration is no longer buying such rhetoric. Shamir has already marked Baker and Bush as hostile to the Israeli case. He has no confidence in the series of assurances they have offered him as a remedy to his fears of a peace conference.

Shamir lashed out at the ambassador to the United States because the latter chose to transfer the scene of the fight over the guarantees from Jerusalem to Washington. Shamir is encouraging AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] and other Jewish organizations to get Congress to force the administration to grant the aid to Israel. American sources claim that the organizations have already recruited the necessary majority in the Senate and are currently focusing their pressure on the House.

It appears that in the American democracy, just like in Israel, on issues of settlements or aliyah, just like on issues of war and peace, it is political pressure groups that will tip the scale.

Chief of Staff—Time To Choose Talks or War

TA2506085091 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Jun 91 p 2

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] "Israel is facing a time of decision. It has two possibilities: Either negotiations will start, or the countdown toward an all-out war will begin." These remarks were made by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq at a gathering of veterans of the General Staff reconnaissance platoon, which he commanded in the past, held last Saturday in Moza, near Jerusalem.

The chief of staff stressed that if the minute negotiations start, the countdown will stop, but if negotiations are stopped or get deadlocked, the countdown will commence again. According to him, Israel's deterrence is composed of three main elements: the conventional weapons in its possession; the Arab awareness of Israel's military might; and the U.S. support of Israel.

Chief Intelligence Officer Interviewed

TA2706185391 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 26 Jun 91 pp 51, 53

[Interview with Brigadier General Oren Shahor, chief intelligence officer, by Hanokh Qaftzan, Yo'av Kaspi, and Hayim Raviv, henceforth BAMAHANE; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shahor] One of the must important issues today is the possibility of developing a surveillance satellite that could put our intelligence capabilities one step forward. The Gulf War taught us that we must know what is happening, not only in our close radius, but far beyond that. To gather information about nonconventional weaponry, the Intelligence Corps needs a satellite, among other things. Although a satellite is capable of giving a fuller picture in real time of the order of battle, there are still no absolute answers. There will still be difficulties, as a result of weather problems, the quality of night and day photography, and so forth.

[BAMAHANE] Could we receive the same five-minute early warning we received during the Scud attacks in the Gulf war from a surveillance satellite?

[Shahor] No, these are two different things. However, it will be able to give us access to a different quality of information about peripheral countries, regarding the deployment of their forces and various capabilities.

The time required for Israel to discover hostile activity and to react has been drastically shortened. Today there are missiles that cover hundreds of kilometers in minutes. The information the Intelligence Corps has to supply in light of such threats is of a different kind and different quality.

Israel's qualitative edge over the Arabs is in danger. There is a continuous process of gradual improvement in the quality of the Arab soldier, in his education, the way he is employed, and his performance in exercises. From the intelligence aspect, however, no "qualitative leap" in the enemy's capabilities has been observed, and Israel maintains its gradual progress in this field.

[BAMAHANE] What is the importance of field intelligence today?

[Shahor] We have recently invested quite a lot in field intelligence: in better quality materiel, new maps, photography from different angles, electro-optical surveillance and pilotless planes. For example, we purchased the Searcher—a pilotless plane that can better contribute to field intelligence than the previous models. This is a modern drone of a better quality, which is capable of staying in the air for longer periods. We are very much involved in surveillance activity in the territories. The qualitative, pinpointed information provided by field intelligence brought about very profound changes in various places in the territories.

[BAMAHANE] Did it have an effect on the level of activity there?

[Shahor] Yes. In the last two years we have sensed a change in the streets. Field intelligence in the territories has played an important role in finding a better way to cope with the intifadah. For example, through stakeouts which locate wanted men, through very accurate arrests, and through the prevention of terrorist activity and the apprehension of suspects. Another group of ours maps out the terrain. We have set up a General Staff team which takes to the streets and comes up with authentic intelligence material, including photographs of locations for immediate use. Of course, there is still a lot to do. For instance, we have expanded the long-term observation units. We have forces in the Gaza Strip and in Judaea and Samaria—this is a fundamental change with immediate results. Today we focus mainly on specific figures and on authentic intelligence data. We use our minds, and chase after stonethrowers less.

[BAMAHANE] Does the information collected by the pilotless planes and other aircraft get to the battalion commander and the soldiers lying in ambush in real time?

[Shahor] In my opinion, there is no such thing as real time. We try to keep the time frames effective and to permit efficient use of the information. On the other hand, we have to send the information to consumers through communication networks. We have still not resolved all the problems in this area. This field demands a lot of money and human resources. I would like to see the battalion commander receive visual information in a timely manner. In some cases, all that is needed are simple measures like facsimiles, which have been greatly developed over recent years.

[BAMAHANE] Does that mean that in the future every battalion or company commander will have some kind of facsimile machine issuing instantaneous photographs of enemy territory?

[Shahor] That is the direction in principle. This, however, will not happen tomorrow. It remains to be seen how such equipment can be developed and backed by resources. There is also a problem with sorting out information. A divisional, brigade, or battalion intelligence officer should not receive all the information collected in the area; not because of field security problems, but because a lot of time will go by until the officer finds out what he really needs. Local intelligence officers should only get information relevant to them and quickly.

[BAMAHANE] What are the limitations of the Intelligence Corps today? Do they stem from budgetary constraints?

[Shahor] The limitations are primarily budgetary in nature. The technology exists. Part of it is already on the shelf, while the rest still needs to be developed. It is not out of reach. This is the correct direction, but the equipment does not yet exist, even though most of the technology is there. Manpower resources are also required, but most of the problem is with monetary resources. Satellites cost a lot of money. When you examine this in light of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] budget, things do not look simple.

[BAMAHANE] The chief of staff endorsed a smaller cutback in Intelligence Corps manpower as compared to other branches. Does making the army smaller not require more of a reliance on early warnings by the Intelligence Corps?

[Shahor] After we checked the various systems in the Intelligence Corps, we realized that we could make things a bit more efficient. A cutback in the corps' manpower actually means a certain reduction each year, within the framework of the multiyear plan. We will not conduct less activity, but we can let go of those people that should be released from the corps.

[BAMAHANE] There has been talk, for instance, about reducing the scope of activity of the overt intelligence unit, "Hatzav," which proved so effective during the Gulf war. Does this not constitute an overly drastic, or even dangerous measure?

[Shahor] "Hatzav" will not necessarily be affected by the cuts as much as other units. We examine everything on an individual basis. We may stress different aspects in "Hatzav" and accord greater weight to electronic communications and less to the written media. Perhaps we shall also mechanize elements of the unit, upgrade the equipment, add antennas, and break into the satellite medium. Each unit will be examined on an individual basis.

[BAMAHANE] Does employing new technology mean that you will require less manpower?

[Shahor] I do not think that we will have less people. We may become more efficient in some ways, but if we think it necessary we will even expand "Hatzav." In the final analysis, the process in which large bodies like the IDF have to examine things on a cost-benefit basis is positive. The Intelligence Corps has a series of projects in their preliminary stages. Bringing these projects to a developmental stage would require a significant increase in manpower. One must understand that in the intelligence field, as opposed to other IDF branches, one cannot buy products off the shelf. One must develop them oneself.

[BAMAHANE] Smart and precision-guided weapons have come into use. How will they affect the level of expectations and the demands made on intelligence bodies?

[Shahor] Intelligence operates in two circles. One circle is the intelligence updates on the situation, the information through which one attempts to put together the general picture that explains what is happening in Iraq, Iran, or somewhere else. The second circle is more specific, and pertains to the new weapons systems. We want to identify defined targets or know, for example, which weapon system is stationed in the enemy position. If it is a tank, we want to know what kind of tank it is, how it shoots, what its range is and its infiltration capacity. Things become more difficult when dealing with sophisticated weapons systems that are located a great distance away. In order to collect information today, we must cope with much more problematic and complex technology. The entire world has made a technological leap. We must invest a great deal of resources and experienced manpower to handle this. Intelligence today must be must more accurate, and the information must be timely so that we can home in on our targets. The battlefield of today is very dynamic, and we need timely information. [passage omitted]

[BAMAHANE] Can we expect better answers from the Intelligence Corps in the next war?

[Shahor] I hope so. One must understand that we are dealing with the unknown. It is hard to know what may go through al-Asad's head in a few months.

[BAMAHANE] We are referring to answers to questions such as how many missile launchers the enemy has and where they are located.

[Shahor] It is not just a matter of how many and where. You expect us to estimate whether they are being used to fire missiles or not. I hope we will have better solutions if we prepare for this correctly. I believe that our identification capabilities will improve and then one can definitely expect us to have better and more accurate answers. That is not all. That is only a small part of the picture the Intelligence Corps has to provide. You expect us to know whether war will break out in seven years, three years, or five years. I believe that we will be able to provide a more accurate description of the threats we are facing, but if we are expected to know how al-Asad will be feeling in three years, then this is very problematic.

[BAMAHANE] Does that mean that we cannot expect an answer?

[Shahor] First of all, we expect to be able to provide better answers because of our sophisticated technology, among other things. Anyone slightly knowledgeable about the subject realizes that the more modern the technology, the more accurate the answer. [passage omitted]

Levi Returns From Spain; on Kashmir, Peace Talks

TA2806060891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister David Levi returned from Spain last night. Speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport, Levi referred to the violent incident in India, saying: We do not intend to recommend that Israelis stay away from India, and we have always rejected the approach of other governments which occasionally counsel their nationals to refrain from visiting Israel. Our correspondent Ro'i Grunwald was at the airport:

Even if Syria does not join the peace process, the process should not get stuck, said Foreign Minister David Levi. He added: We must not allow Syria to intimidate other Arab countries into bowing to its dictates. [passage omitted]

Referring to the U.S. threat to withhold loan guarantees for the absorption of immigrants if settlement continues, Levi said: This is the main point of controversy in the intensive dialogue between us and the Americans. We will be able to overcome this problem, as well.

Levi returned from a visit to Spain, where he conferred with the Spanish king and political leadership.

Envoy to Ethiopia: Accord Reached on Emigration

TA2306173291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Jun 91

[Text] Asher Na'im, Israel's ambassador to Ethiopia, says that the remaining Ethiopian Jews will emigrate to Israel in accordance with an agreement achieved with the Ethiopian Government that speaks of the freedom of movement of all citizens, including Jews.

The ambassador told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that, this time, the immigrants will arrive aboard ordinary commercial flights. He was speaking at a reception held by the Israeli chapter of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in honor of Operation Solomon participants.

Ties With Austria To Improve After Waldheim

TA2406104791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 91 p A8

[Report by the unnamed political correspondent]

[Text] Upon the end of Kurt Waldheim's term as Austrian president in about a year, Israel will raise the level of the charge d'affaires in its embassy in Vienna to that of ambassador and will restore relations with Austria back to what they used to be, prior to Waldheim's appointment, senior political sources in Jerusalem stated yesterday. The respective embassies in Vienna and Tel Aviv are currently headed by charges d'affaires.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu issued a communique yesterday stating that Israel has always distinguished between its wish to maintain normal relations with the Austrians, and its severe objection to Waldheim's presidency. Netanyahu added: "Personally, as the man who uncovered Waldheim's war crimes dossier in the UN archives of Nazi war criminals, I see his stepping down as the closing of a circle."

Al-Salt's Refusal of U.S. Envoy's Visit Hailed

JN2706145991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jun 91 p 4

["Just a Word" column by Ahmad al-Dabbas: "A Pan-Arab Position by the al-Salt Municipality"]

[Text] The position taken by the members of the al-Salt Municipal Council was a great, honorable, and objective one when they came out with a clear and unequivocal "veto" to a request from the U.S. ambassador to Jordan to visit al-Salt to "honor" the municipality and meet with the Municipal Council members.

Before the 'Id al-Adha holiday, the al-Salt Municipal Council met under Mayor Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Nusur, with all members attending, to discuss a single topic on its agenda; namely, a request from the U.S. Embassy in Amman saying the ambassador wanted to visit al-Salt and meet with the head and members of the Municipal Council at the earliest date set by the mayor to receive a diplomatic representative.

Genuinely aware of democratic practices; possessing a deep understanding of the visit's dimensions and meanings; from a sense of the responsibility of representation the voters of the city have conferred on them; with a deep pan-Arab feeling; and on the basis of the Jordanian people's clear, sincere, and firm principles, the Municipal Council members unanimously voted to reject the visit in form and content so the city would remain, like all other Jordanian cities, proud of its citizen's pan-Arab stands.

Immediately after the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Nusur informed the U.S. Embassy about the Municipal Council's decision and the Council members' categorical and principled rejection of the visit. This was not because the city's population and the Municipal Council's members do not receive guests in a personal or official capacity, and not because they are incapable of fulfilling the duties and requirements to honor a guest, but because like all Jordanian people, the people in al-Salt do not extend their pure hands to shake the hand of the nation's enemies, and because, like all Jordanian people, the city al-Salt and its population and Municipal Council take a unified and principled stand on the nation's causes, as they were brought up on genuine values, ethics, and principles, which they were fed with their mother's milk. These values and ethics will continue to live with them and be their guide until judgment day.

In his reply to the embassy, the mayor detailed the reasons for the Municipal Council's decision not to receive the ambassador. In plain Arabic, he attributed the decision to the United States' hostility toward the Arab nation, the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against great Iraq, the continued blockade imposed on Iraq of the Arabs, the hostility toward the Palestine question and support for Zionism, the attitude toward Jordan because it opposed foreign aggression against the Arab nation and supported the nation's causes, and the continued acts of piracy and harassment against Arab Jordan.

Thus, the position taken by the al-Salt Municipal Council is an honorable one. It is based on the position of all Jordanians who never extend their hand to the enemies, who never let down their nation, and who join together in the mutual teaching of truth. Al-Salt, like all Jordanian cities, villages, and the desert will continue to resist attempts to tame and subdue it, and will continue to remain impregnable in the face of enemies.

Al-Salt Mayor Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Nusur in the past rejected an official invitation to visit the United States for the same reasons.

Congratulations to the head and members of the al-Salt Municipal Council.

U.S. Navy Continues 'Piracy' in Gulf of Aqaba

JN2806075291 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Jun 91 pp 1, 13

[By Salam al-Shawwa]

[Text] Amman—U.S. Navy vessels in the Gulf of Aqaba continue their piracy against vessels and cargo ships heading for Jordan, claiming that the cargo carried by these ships would be smuggled to Iraq.

Jordanian shipping sources have said that the U.S. Navy stationed in the Straits of Tiran at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba intercepted the ship Trade Animation on Wednesday 19 June 1991. A team of military personnel inspected the ship and examined the cargo documents.

The ship's captain was later informed that his ship would not be allowed to proceed to al-'Aqabah, claiming that its cargo was being imported by Jordanian businessmen and institutions that would smuggle it to Iraq. Despite this and after the ship was impounded at the Straits of Tiran for seven days, these forces suddenly allowed the ship to proceed to al-'Aqabah without giving any explanation. The ship arrived at al-'Aqabah port on Wednesday 26 June 1991; a delay of over seven days. As a result, the ship owners suffered financial damages of approximately $5,000; thus, pushing them to seek compensation from the Jordanian businessmen and importers.

It is worth noting that the ship was carrying various products from the Far East, all bound for the Jordanian market, businessmen, and importers.

The U.S. Navy stationed at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba also intercepted the Sudanese ship, Blue Nile, on Thursday morning 20 June 1991. After a team of military personnel inspected the ship and carefully examined its documents, the ship's captain was informed that it would not be allowed to proceed to al-'Aqabah port. The reason given was that the inspection team was unable to reach, open and inspect the 85 containers that were bound for other ports. Although the shipping agent in

Amman intervened with the U.S. Embassy and gave guarantees that the 85 containers would remain onboard the ship, which would return to the Straits of Tiran for inspection—unloading the cargo bound for al-'Aqabah would facilitate reaching these containers—his efforts were in vain. The Navy insisted on preventing the ship from proceeding to al-'Aqabah port, and forced it to change course. Therefore, after a delay of more than three days at the Straits of Tiran, the ship owners directed the ship to port in Sudan.

It is worth noting that the ship was due to unload about 150 full containers and about 10 tons of loose cargo, and 12 cars, all bound for the Jordanian market.

King's Letter to Outgoing Prime Minister

JN2006105191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1752 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Letter from King Husayn to outgoing Prime Minister Mudar Badran dated 18 June—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear brother his excellency Mudar Badran, may God protect you: Peace be upon you. You have always been a dear brother and a source of trust and great hope. When Arab Jordan became destined to live its most difficult days and nights, and experience the hardest weeks, months, and years in its march, and when it was hit by high waves from all directions, you were there, shouldering the responsibility during the phase of confrontation, challenge, and deep comprehensive change. You bore and endured what very few men can bear and endure. And you gave of your mind, conscience, and health, with the patience of those who believe in God and realize their responsibilities, determined to be as you have always been in your steadfastness, patience, faith, sincerity, and suffering.

We were aware that it was not easy for a prime minister to stand before a House of Representatives elected by about 40 percent of the people. Some members had not practiced politics before their election, and some had little experience and knowledge of it. Some came to the dome of Parliament with a vote for one candidate; others came to this dome with a vote for a number of candidates in accordance with the election constituencies set by law. Such an issue now requires knowlegeable study and rectification so that we will be able to amend a loophole here and close another there. We all, citizens and officials alike, now realize that while it is important to maintain the existing quotas among the different governorates, it is also necessary to study the implications of dividing up constituencies, so that the voter, who is the essence, aim, and medium of democracy, will not be faced with one of two choices without alternatives, or with several options, one of which he is compelled by law to deal with, even if it is against his will and opinion. If we succeed in this issue, we will be able to give the voter, man or woman, the chance to choose one candidate he believes in and whom he has decided is the best choice to represent him and his point of view.

There are other issues that need study and rectification: the family registration book, the election ballot, and the responsibility of the voter to contribute his vote out of his national duty and affiliation, which he may not abandon or be hesitant about expressing. The difficult circumstances that prevented us from resuming our democratic march up to 1989 led, among other things, to many loopholes. We find the time has come to deal with these and stop their continuation and their repercussions on this march. Because of what we have referred to, the great majority of people did not realize the importance of exercising their role as the essence, medium, and purpose of democracy.

Our lack of material wealth and the repercussions of our position and stance in confronting Israel—which is supported by all means of power and planning further expansionism—has not prevented us in this country, both Muhajirin and Ansar [Palestinians and Jordanians], from acquiring moral wealth, which is a source of honor and pride to each one of us. If others believe that they have the right to boast of God's gifts to them, which they have not acquired through their own hands and energies, then we have the right to be proud of and boast of our democratic march, which is the product of all our people, from the highest levels of responsibility to every citizen, wherever he may be.

The time has come to view our lack of resources and what we have succeeded in accomplishing with our minds and hands as a noble wealth that cannot be bought or sold with money.

Perhaps, my brother, you were one of the few colleagues in a difficult situation—during which we have suffered at the hands of brothers and friends in a way which can hardly be expressed or forgotten.

We continued to be steadfast while our brothers and friends were continuing or severing their support for us as they pleased. Our people and our Army have always remained on the longest frontline, often lacking in their needs, barely able to provide for themselves. But armed with all their faith and confidence, they kept their heads high, and their hands holding strong on both triggers and shovels. Neither pressures nor bargains nor temptations have managed to change our positions.

You, my brother, were among those who shared the suffering with us, concealed the pain and agitation we concealed, and hid the injustice and ingratitude of relatives and friends. We continued the march together, living on hope, and never bargaining over a grain of earth nor over part of a right, a pan-Arab principle, or a general Arab concern.

While some of our brothers envied us and were annoyed by the edifices of science, medicine, knowledge, and agriculture we built up and the progress and development we achieved in spite of little funds, resources, and assistance associated with the sentiments of of favor, we never—and God is witness to this—envied a brother for what he has possessed, nor wished on any of our brothers

anything but goodness, prosperity, and well-being. They know as we do that the pressures that were brought to bear, the crises that hit our economy, and our resulting debts would not have happened if promises had been kept and if the aid allocated to us by an Arab decision had been fulfilled.

Under all these difficult circumstances we gave you the responsibility of premiership, and you were up to that responsibility. You faced your duties and fulfilled what was required of you.

From all Jordanians we extend to you all gratitude, appreciation and pride. And we extend the same to all your colleagues who helped you, and who were knowledgeable and faithful to their homeland and message after their faith in God almighty. As I accept the resignation of your government, I pray that God will protect you and give you happiness and success in all your endeavors. I trust that you will continue to be among the leaders of faithful citizens and of those working to build Jordan and serve the nation and the state.

God bless you, and we are happy to impart to you our royal decree granting you the al-Nahda Decoration of the First Order. With the best wishes and appreciation.

Commentators View U.S. Decision on Aid

Country Not To 'Sell Out'

JN2106120091 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jun 91 p 2

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "This Is Jordan"]

[Text] How can one, anyone in the world, possibly believe that the U.S. Congress is not Zionist?

Israel is obstructing peace efforts and rejecting all peace overtures, American and otherwise. And yet the Congress votes for further economic and military assistance and grants to Israel.

Israel thwarts Bush's plan, and yet the Congress rewards it with funds, weapons, and unlimited political support!

Israel says "No" to Baker, mocks his tours, and scorns his efforts and missions; and the Congress punishes Jordan and votes against economic assistance for it.

The Congress sets this condition: For Jordan to get leftover economic assistance, it should bow to Israel, please it, and enter into direct negotiations with it in accordance with Israel's wishes and plans!

The "fair" Congress wants Jordan to abandon its firm, principled position, which is in harmony with, and, indeed, is based on international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions, either those proposed at the time by the American-British alliance when the Arab regimes were defeated in the 5 June 1967 war or those which Great Britain imposed and forced the world to accept when the Arabs were defeated in 1948.

The esteemed Congress wants Jordan to give up voluntarily its rights and those of the Palestinian people and the Arabs in return for leftover U.S. economic aid!

Just a few days ago, Shamir's government announced that it was dropping its claim to Jordan as part or extension of Israel and said it does not intend to annex Jordan to its racist Zionist entity!

Is this Israeli generosity, or unlimited impudence? Or is it the political prostitution that Shamir and the Likud Party have been practicing both openly and secretly?

Has Jordan ever been within reach of Shamir's jaws or at his disposal that he can donate it?

The "venerable" Congress, which dedicated itself to serving Zionism, and whose members have sold their consciences to it, should know full well that Jordan will not concede its principled position, nor will it sell out any Arab rights. Jordan will not enter into a separate deal with Israel in accordance with the latter's wishes and desires even if Washington gives it all its wealth as well as the dollars.

And this dedicated Congress should know that the Jordanians fear only God Almighty, and will bow to no one but Him.

As for the leftover assistance which they promise Jordan in return for its surrender to Israel and abandonment of its rights and those of the nation, let the Congress give it to Israel as reward for its scorn of Bush's plan and Baker's efforts.

This is Jordan, no more, no less, and this is how Congress should understand it.

U.S. Cannot Impose Conditions

JN2806100091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Jun 91 p 14

["Just An Opinion" column by Badr 'Abd-al-Haq: "U.S. Aid: Many Times and Many Pains"]

[Text] It is true that Jordan is a small country with limited potentials, but it is also true that the Jordanian people respect themselves and do not bargain over principles no matter how high the price Jordan has to pay for its stands.

Jordan's ability to remain steadfast and to adhere to principles has been tested many times and, as a result, it faced bitterness many times. Every time and after every pain, however, Jordan emerged proud from the attempted containment and subservience even if it meant losing its daily bread.

We are saying this because of the ongoing clamor in Washington about whether Jordan deserves to receive U.S. assistance or whether this assistance should be

suspended. This is despite the fact that the entire assistance story does not exceed $50 million, half of which goes to so-called military assistance. Such a small amount could be disregarded and rejected if the students in the elementary and preparatory classes of Jordanian schools donated their daily pocket money to the treasury.

Another possibility is for 20 or 30 wealthy Jordanians to pay into the treasury the amount the grand U.S. Administration favors us with. This will not affect the national economy and will not turn the clean Jordanian hand into a hand that begs for assistance.

Our colleague Rania 'Atallah wrote an accurate, comprehensive, and lengthy report in the JORDAN TIMES yesterday in which she said that the legislators and Congressmen are using the American assistance as a means to pressure Jordan. She added that they want to reduce this meager assistance to punish Jordan for supporting Iraq during and after the Gulf crisis as well as in the future.

So far, everything seems to be normal and reasonable, because Jordan has received U.S. assistance without being subjected to pressure or threat. But what is surprising, strange, and new is that some U.S. decisionmakers think the financial pressure on Jordan could be replaced by direct political pressure such as demanding that the Jordanian Government recognize Israel, hold direct bilateral relations with Israel, and not offer any assistance to Iraq other than humanitarian assistance.

Thus, the United States intends to disregard Jordan and the Jordanian people as well as other people who would rather starve than accept humiliation. The price which the United States is offering us to relinquish our pride and honor is cheap. Honor cannot be valued by money or bribes. No matter how big the carrot or how long the stick, an impudent country like the United States cannot impose its conditions on us or define our options in accordance with the mood of Washington or of the lord of the White House.

Columnist Views Stand on Iraq, UN Resolutions

JN2706122191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
27 Jun 91 p 24

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Old Colonial Rancors"]

[Text] We are not supposed to give a detailed account of our Arab and international relations, not to the British Foreign Office, nor to the OBSERVER. If the old colonial enmity defines the interests, legitimacy, and concepts of the UN resolutions, Jordan is the last to whom the rancorous British can speak. Jordan is not part of the "coalition forces" to receive orders from the command. Nor does it belong to the jumpy, frightened group that fears the brandishing of the stick. The very brief and very dry response that Prime Minister al-Masri gave to REUTER, which only contained three words, is what the British provocations deserve most.

Do not believe that there is anything similar to the British colonial rancors against everything Arab. If we were kind enough to have forgotten, or were about to forget, the horrors brought upon us by Britain since this region first saw their the brazen faces, these colonialists, who were deservedly kicked out of the homeland, will never forget. The generation of politicians, who opened their eyes on an empire and ended up a servant in a hotel, is prepared to let out all of its rancor in the Gulf and other areas.

The American who is holding the big stick, the La Sorbonne lecturer who sells explosives, and the poor one lost in the Soviet labyrinth who sells the plane to the Arabs and the missile to down it with to the Zionists, are all nothing when compared to the British colonial "stirrer of evil," who does not want to be reminded that he has lost his teeth, that his claws have rotted, and that his lion's roar has turned into a cat's meow.

Yes, we deal with Iraq. Who dares question a Jordanian about his Arab character and his vital interests? Who dares decide for the Jordanian what he needs from Baghdad and what Baghdad needs from him?

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry and the Jordanian Government can talk about legitimacy and respect for the UN resolutions. But we, as Jordanian Arab citizens, know that the same legitimacy and the same UN resolutions are not worthy of any respect at all. We also know that nothing binds us to this legitimacy as long as it falls short of dealing with the imagination of the Zionist terrorists, or to the UN resolutions as long as they fall short of dealing with the security of millions of people in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria.

Why should we respect the UN resolutions? Is it because they impose a blockade on the Iraqi Arab people, makes them go hungry, and humiliate our entire nation? And what about the other UN resolutions which became only ink on paper?

There is not a single Arab who respects the UN resolutions. We in Jordan say this loudly because we can open our mouths.

Cabinet Group To Study 'Abrogating Martial Law'

JN2806081091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
28 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—The cabinet decided in its session last night, Thursday, chaired by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, to form a ministerial committee to study abrogating martial law. The committee will present its ideas and recommendations to the cabinet during next Tuesday's session.

The committee is headed by 'Ali Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and transport and communications minister, and comprises Dr. Muhammad al-Hammuri, minister of higher education; Basil Jardanah, minister of finance; Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, minister of

state for cabinet affairs; Salim al-Zu'bi, municipal and rural affairs, and environment minister; Jawdat al-Subul, minister of interior; and Tayysir Kan'an, minister of justice.

The ministerial committee is expected to begin its work tomorrow morning, Saturday.

The cabinet also decided in this session to form a legal ministerial committee headed by the minister of justice and comprising the ministers of labor, higher education, municipal and rural affairs and environment, and the ministers of state for parliamentary affairs, and for cabinet affairs, in addition to the head of the legislation office at the Prime Ministry.

Cabinet Gives Priority to Parties, Press Law

JN2706055591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Cabinet has decided to present the new government's policy statement to the Lower House of Parliament in its coming extraordinary session to win a vote of confidence, according to an official announcement Wednesday evening. The Cabinet also decided on the necessary mechanism for the preparation of the statement at the appropriate time and has set up a ministerial committee for the task. According to the announcement, the Cabinet studied draft laws on political parties and press and publication, and decided to give them priority over other government concerns. It said the government would adopt procedures to prepare these laws which would be submitted to Parliament's coming extraordinary session.

PFLP's Habash in Country for Medical Treatment

JN2806065491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Jun 91 p 18

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—'Azmi al-Khawaja (Abu-'Isam), secretary general of the Democratic Popular Unity Party, held a reception in honor of George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], who arrived in Amman for treatment at the Al-Husayn Medical Center.

The reception was attended by His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Coucnil [PNC], a number of officials, deputies, and representatives of popular groups and political forces, and PNC members.

Al-Hirawi Interviewed on Prospect for Country

PM2706152691 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Jun 91 pp 16-18

[Interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Milhim Karam in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Karam] Your Excellency, what can you say about the al-Ta'if agreement after the phases already covered under that agreement?

[Al-Hirawi] If a body is suffering from a serious disease and that disease remains in the body, it will spread to all parts of that body; the disease will gradually spread. I see the al-Ta'if agreement as a new baby. That baby is the new Lebanon. The baby was sent to school, completed his secondary education, and, through successive decisions, has entered the university. The final step necessary for his graduation from the university is the implementation of the Cabinet decision regarding the South. After today, we will not accept any authority in Lebanon other than the legitimate authority of the Lebanese state, and we will not accept any security other than that of the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces. After today we will accept no statelets but only one united state, namely, the Lebanese state. That is why we have decided to establish peace in the South and to call on brothers and friends—and especially the UN Security Council, which had issued the famous Resolution 425—to work for the implementation of that resolution. That is the way to peace and to curing the serious disease which has afflicted Lebanon for 16 years.

[Karam] Following the signing of the Lebanese-Syrian treaty and the appointment of deputies, some political circles are now talking about an imminent Cabinet reshuffle. How true is this?

[Al-Hirawi] Much talking takes place, especially in a free democratic republic with a clear constitution. Many people wish to join the Cabinet. We appreciate everyone's qualifications, but a change is out of the question in the foreseeable future, in my view. Before such a change can take place, the decisions adopted by this particular Cabinet must be implemented, including the decisions on the south, and, after the south, the decisions that were adopted in al-Ta'if and that we have not yet implemented.

[Karam] Certain circles speak of fears and apprehensions among the Christians, particularly after the recent developments, as reflected in the economic stagnation in their areas. They maintain that Christian emigration has not stopped. What is Your Excellency's view on that matter?

[Al-Hirawi] First, let me answer the last part of the question about continuing emigration. I am among those who have been watching the Lebanese borders, and especially the airport. I receive daily lists of the number of people leaving and arriving. Those who have left recently—and specifically after the deployment of the Army in various Lebanese areas—are businessmen who go abroad to import commodities necessary for Lebanon's development and reconstruction. Many are arriving. [passage omitted]

Some are trying to plant pessimism in the hearts of the people by claiming that military service, which is an integral part of Lebanon's defense, would be done in fraternal Syria. Do we not have camps for such service? They claim that banking secrecy would be violated and that the currency freedom would not be the same. That is why in Tripoli, where I spoke on the occasion of the anniversary of the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami, I emphasized three points. I said: There should be no fear for the constitution and public liberties, no fear for the freedom of education, and no fear for the freedom of banks. If these three issues of importance to the public are raised, then no one should forget that we are still enjoying and democratically exercising all these freedoms. [passage omitted] Regarding the talk of emigration or forced emigration, the incoming planes of the airline companies—especially the Lebanese ones—are fully booked until July on flights from Europe. That is why they have increased the number of flights. It is expected that some 1,000 Lebanese expatriates, or people who were forced to leave, will arrive daily. They are returning with their families. We only have to ask the Lebanese and foreign universities and schools whether they have any vacancies left for next year. There are so many applications. [passage omitted]

There are many claims and leaflets distributed at night. We all know about them. Proceeding from the principle of freedom, I want the government and the president of the Republic to be accountable for their actions, not for their words. We have had enough talking and enough excuses with everyone wagering on nonexistent future possibilities. The remedy lies in the regional and international understanding that Lebanon has enjoyed recently. The government and the head of state should take all measures and make all decisions necessary to ensure that we do not lose what has been decided internationally; namely, that Lebanon should not go back to the previous state of affairs.

[Karam] Are the Christian fears unjustified?

[Al-Hirawi] I do not want to talk about the fears of sectors of the Lebanese population, especially the Christians. I just want to remind the Christians of our history since 1920, which we have already discussed with many politicians and influential figures. Were we ever able to secure from our sister, Syria, a clear acceptance of the Lebanese Republic except in the recent treaty signed in the names of the Lebanese Republic and the Syrian Republic? That was clear enough, and we have nothing to hide from our people in Lebanon.

Furthermore, everyone—and especially those who are well-acquainted with Lebanon's history—should know that reassurance and peace of mind come from the eastern gate. Lack of reassurance also comes from the eastern gate. That is why at the beginning of my term I

decided to seal that gate with crystal-clear agreements to ensure that we would never be at the mercy of personal whims here or there. I believe that the war stopped when understanding was reached sincerely and candidly between the Lebanese regime and the Syrian regime. [passage omitted]

[Karam] There are some doubts about the implementation of Resolution 425. That means a delay in imposing the state's authority throughout Lebanese territory, and it means that this authority will be confined to a miniature Lebanon extending from Batir to Zgharta. Are these doubts justified, or are there sufficient guarantees of the consolidation of Lebanon's sovereignty?

[Al-Hirawi] These doubts are like other doubts, but I must explain one thing: Israel does not want the people of the South to be reassured about their future. It always uses the situation of the Palestinians and some militias in the south as pretexts. Our decision to go to the south on 1 July with a big military force is our cogent reply. We are going there with an olive branch in our hand. We have to provide security and reassurance for everyone living in Lebanon, be they Lebanese or non-Lebanese. That is the task of the Lebanese state and not of any other state. We want to eliminate all the excuses used by Israel to avoid implementing Resolution 425. We have no political, diplomatic, or military relations with Israel. The decision made in al-Ta'if was guaranteed by regional states, friendly states, and the Security Council, which approved the al-Ta'if agreement.

When our Army is deployed in the South, in all the areas liberated from Israeli occupation, I will go to the next UN session in September; and from the loftiest international platform I will say: Where are the states that supported us over the al-Ta'if agreement? They are requested to help us implement Resolution 425. Let Israel bear the consequences of nonimplementation, because Lebanon does not want to commit aggression against anyone; but it wants its security and stability. Here I must say to the groups in southern Lebanon—and, foremost among them, the Palestinians—that we care more about our country than any individual living on our territory. That is why it is in the best interest of the Arab states now to help Lebanon implement Resolution 425, and we have to guarantee the security Israel requests for its northern region.

[Karam] It is claimed that the second republic has not achieved a qualitative shift yet and that corruption is still widespread. Some people are also saying that certain projects are suspect. What is the state's plan for an administrative purge and the prevention of monopolies?

[Al-Hirawi] I say that I must answer those who put the question. We took over the state after 16 years of erosion, loss of institutions, fragmentation, and emergence of authorities other than the Lebanese state authority throughout the country. Today a citizen has a right to ask: Where is the state? Previously, he beseeched God to silence the guns and used to say, I want nothing except calm to prevail. Now he has a right to ask for security, stability, water, electricity, and so on, but the state should be given time to stand on its feet. Everyone knows what we got from the Lebanese treasury and the central bank. There are many requests. Regarding employees and widespread corruption, we are preparing a bill that will lift employees' immunity. Anyone in the Lebanese Administration found to be inefficient will be dismissed. [passage omitted]

[Karam] How much serious Arab and international support have you received for the deployment and entrenchment of the Army in Sidon and its suburbs?

[Al-Hirawi] I want to explain, through Captain Karam [as published], that we could not do it without support. First, there is international support spearheaded by the United States. As I have said in relation to the implementation of Resolution 425, much depends on that state.

Second, there are the EC, the Soviet Union, and those associated with it.

At the Arab level, the Arab states have approved the al-Ta'if agreement and Resolution 425 and have supported the establishment of security in the south and the restoration of Lebanese authority to all villages.

I do not believe anyone will let us down as long as we are pursuing a course of peace, fearing God, and maintaining our patriotism and independence.

[Karam] It has been claimed that the Palestinians have some minor security cards that they could play to influence the position of the Army in Sidon and to drown it in the area's security quagmire.

[Al-Hirawi] I believe that the winds that used to blow on the Lebanese Army, the political leaderships, and the Lebanese public are gone forever. The Lebanese public, politicians, and officials—from the ministers up to the prime minister and the president of the Republic—all hold one and the same view: the restoration of unity and return of the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces to every part of Lebanese territory.

[Karam] Some people are saying: Why does the regime agree to absorb the miltias of various affiliations and trends and refuse to absorb in the Lebanese Army the followers of Lahd, which cooperates with Israel—in Jazzin, for example—particularly since there are those who link implementation of Resolution 425 to the difficult question of absorption of what Lahd represents.

[Al-Hirawi] Everyone knows that after various crises in various parts of the world, solutions were found. For us, the solutions include the fact that we must embrace our sons who joined the militias and who were misled by some leaderships with alleged claims. Now that the foundations of peace in Lebanon have been laid, we must view our sons as part of the Lebanese people. As regards what the South Lebanese Army and Lahd represent, it is too early to discuss that. As for the army in

Jazzin, the Lebanese people know that it is there by the Lebanese will to safeguard Jazzin and that its members still receive their salaries from the Lebanese state and the army command.

[Karam] After today, is there any fear of political, military, or economic tremors in Lebanon, and is there any threat to the secrecy of banks and freedom of the press?

[Al-Hirawi] I have said in a public speech in Tripoli as well as in a public speech after the signing of the treaty in Damascus that Lebanon is the eternal homeland of all its people. Furthermore, we are the country of freedom. We believe in the freedom of the individual. We do not want to lose any part of our freedom. As regards the claim that the agreement will do away with all our privileges, allow me to say this: Sister Syria is developing at a faster pace than us and could become more of a country of freedoms than Lebanon. As for the fears in some European circles that care about Lebanon and its future, I would like to say this to them: When we were under mandate, we were allowed to keep the unified Lebanese-Syrian pound and they allowed us open borders and joint customs, economic, and commercial interests. Who broke that? Syria, out of fear of Lebanon. Now we are going back to what we inherited. When talking about treaties and agreements, we should ask the Europeans, whose conference will soon begin in London with the participation of the Soviet Union: How could 34 European states, from the Urals to the Atlantic, with the exception of Albania, meet to discuss their security, economic, and financial future; how could the agreements in the Gulf, the Arab Maghreb, Latin America, and North America as between the United States and Mexico and Canada—how could others be allowed all that, while we are not allowed to consider our future? We are members of the Arab League, and through that membership we have to consider Lebanon's future interests. We should not be closed or oblivious to what is happening in the world.

[Karam] There are those who fear a Syrian-Israeli confrontation on Lebanese territory, and that comes in the course of the discussions on the current U.S. plan. What is your view?

[Al-Hirawi] I doubt that. The region is moving toward peace, not war.

[Karam] What has become of the Arab and international aid fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon, and what role is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia playing?

[Al-Hirawi] We are grateful to the Saudi Kingdom, which is determined to continue its efforts to set up such a fund. It was hindered in the past because of the Gulf war; but Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and all the other Gulf states are perfectly willing. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal—on the instructions of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, whom I thank—has undertaken to continue contacts with Japan, the EC, and other countries that will contribute.

[Karam] How can we describe relations with France following the departure of the ambassador? Is there anything new on the 'Awn case?

[Al-Hirawi] Regarding our relations with France, we are most eager to preserve the historic and special relations between us. So, even in the presence of the ambassador, these relations are only complicated by some people who distort the facts.

[Karam] What about the 'Awn case?

[Al-Hirawi] I believe that is just a summer cloud in relations between us and France. The Lebanese judiciary is studying the case, and I cannot give an opinion on it. I respect the work of the authorities, and justice will give its verdict. [passage omitted]

[Karam] What about the issue of an international peace conference in the region?

[Al-Hirawi] We have been contacted by those taking an interest in the matter. Our foreign minister has had two meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Baker. Our position is part of a unified position within the Arab group. It is not a separate position. We call for the presence of the United Nations, which issued the relevant resolutions, and of the EC states, especially the friendly states. Regarding the mechanism, it has not been seriously considered so far.

[Karam] What about the issue of the hostages and their release?

[Al-Hirawi] I do not feel embarrassed when that issue is raised, because what happened took place at a time when the Lebanese state had no authority in these parts of Lebanon. In our daily contacts with the friendly states and Iran, we will spare no effort in requesting these hostages' release, because we want Lebanon to be erased from the list of states where people of any nationality are held. We want to eliminate the notion that Lebanon is a country of terrorism, drugs, and other such things. We are doing everything in our power for the release of these hostages.

Al-Hirawi: Israel's Security Must Be Guaranteed

NC2806105391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said that Israel does not want the population of south Lebanon to be assured of their future, and therefore continues to use the Palestinian and militia presence as an excuse to maintain its involvement in that region.

In an interview with AL-BAYRAQ, he said: Our decision to deploy a large military force in the south on 1 July is our irrefutable response. When we go, we will be carrying an olive branch in our hands. We must provide security and tranquillity for everyone residing on Lebanese soil, Lebanese or not, because this is the task of the state and not any other country. He added: We want to

remove Israel's excuses for avoiding the implementation of Resolution 425. While stressing that the state has no relations with Israel, he said that the al-Ta'if decision was guaranteed by regional and friendly countries as well as the UN Security Council.

In a dramatic stand, President al-Hirawi said: We are more concerned about our country than anyone else residing in Lebanon. The Arab countries therefore have a greater interest in helping Lebanon implement Resolution 425. We have to guarantee Israel's demand for security in its northern region.

The president of the Republic added: In Lebanon, we only accept the legitimate Lebanese state's authority and the security provided by the Lebanese Army and the internal security forces. The only Army we accept is that of the Lebanese Republic. We want the single Lebanese state, not statelets. Therefore, we have decided to establish peace in the south and to demand that our brothers and friends, including the Security Council that passed the famous Resolution 425, work to implement that resolution. Only then will we be able to say we have crossed the road to peace and ended the chronic disease that has afflicted Lebanon for 16 years.

In reply to a question about support, President al-Hirawi said: We would not have been able to deploy the Army without support. There is international support, particularly from Washington, and also from the EC, the Soviet Union, and its allies. The Arab countries have approved the al-Ta'if accord, Resolution 425, the establishment of peace in the south, and the restoration of Lebanese authority to all its villages. He added: I do not think we will be let down by anyone as long as long as we continue the peace process.

President al-Hirawi also stressed the determination to continue efforts to set up the international fund for Lebanon's reconstruction of Lebanon and highly praised the role of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the other Gulf states in this respect.

Dallul Leaves for Damascus To Complete Talks

NC2706165491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul left for Damascus today to complete talks with Syrian officials on the Army deployment in south Lebanon.

Army Reconnaissance Group Enters Sidon

NC2706112991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The actual countdown for the Army deployment in the south began today when a military reconnaisance group entered the city of Sidon at 0900. The group of eight military vehicles left for the area east of Sidon to reconnoiter the areas where the Army plans to deploy, and three of its vehicles were seen on the al-Harah-'Ayn al-Dulb road.

SLA Hands Four DFLP Members To Israelis

NC2706122191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] arrested four Palestinian members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in Jazzin yesterday.

We have been informed that the SLA handed the four over to Israeli troops who transported them to Marj 'Uyun prison.

DFLP Calls for Government Dialogue With PLO

NC2706123691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Salih Zaydan, political bureau member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has expressed the hope that the Army deployment in the south will be supported by a political dialogue between the PLO and the Lebanese Government. He said that such a dialogue would contribute to the deployment's success.

In a statement published in the newspaper AL-NIDA' today, Zaydan said: We are still optimistic that we will be able to reach an understanding. He stressed that the Palestinians' weapons are part of the national resistance's weapons and are intended for the camps' defense. He said: We do not believe that the national resistance is required to hand over its weapons.

PFLP, DFLP Urge Agreement Before Deployment

NC2706174691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] have declared that they will facilitate the Lebanese Army deployment in the south. They called for an agreement to regulate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The PFLP said what is causing apprehension now is that the Army deployment process will take place, as is evident, before an official Palestinian-Lebanese agreement has been reached. It called for resolving pending problems between the two parties. The PFLP statement said that if the Army deploys before an agreement with the PLO, before completing its deployment in Jazzin, and before addressing the border strip issue and Security Council Resolution 425, the climate will be different, and the most outstanding issue might be disarming the Palestinians on the assumption that this issue is the same as the miltia arms, and ignoring the task of resisting the Israeli occupation of the south.

The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front stressed that it supports the Lebanese Army deployment in all Lebanese territory and will facilitate it.

SLA Commander Refuses To Negotiate

NC2706180891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, [SLA], has refused to withdraw from Jazzin or to hand it over to an unknown situation. He also refused to negotiate at present with the U.S. over the future of the area. In a statement to the Voice of Lebanon, he warned the Lebanese Government against taking risks or attempts to take Jazzin by force, because this will lead to grave consequences. He said talks must take place at the negotiating table and may not lead to results. He said: I have nothing to give. He pointed out that Jazzin cannot be handed over to an unknown situation and suffer the same fate as the east Sidon villages. He said: In the event the Lebanese and Palestinian militiamen are withdrawn from east Sidon area, there will be somthing to discuss. He stressed that if any aggression takes place against the SLA, we will retaliate whether the source is the Lebanese Army or someone else.

Muslim Fundamentalist Group Refuses To Quit South

NC2706195891 Paris AFP in English 1937 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, June 27 (AFP)—A Sunni Moslem fundamentalist group, al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, said Thursday it would not withdraw from positions it holds facing the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

"We refuse to pull out of our positions along the Kafr Falus front until there is a definite withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces and their agents in this region," an official of the group told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

He said that al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah positioned in the Sidon region where regular Lebanese forces are to begin deploying on Monday, was not opposed to the Army's presence but would maintain its positions on that front about 10 kilometers (six miles) east of this port city.

The announcement came as the Army was Thursday reinforcing its presence in south Lebanon and officers for the first time since 1985 inspected the Sidon region.

Nine Soviet T-54 tanks and three personnel carriers arrived late Thursday in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, military sources said.

The Army had deployed in February in the border sector of the Christian region of Jazzin controlled by the SLA which overlooks Sidon's Palestinian refugee camps, home to thousands of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) fighters.

Elsewhere, Lebanese officers, escorted by militiamen from the Popular Liberation Army—a coalition of Lebanese and Palestinian forces led by Sunni chieftain Mustafa Sa'ad who heads the Popular Nasirite Organization (PNO)—inspected the Sidon region, including Kafr Falus.

The PNO meanwhile stressed the need for a "precise and comprehensive timetable for the Israeli withdrawal and that of its auxilliary militia."

"This timetable would form a kind of guarantee and insurance to all the parties in the south," the PNO said in a statement. "The deployment plan must be a unified thing to ensure its success and to avoid falling into the Israeli trap."

Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the pro-Iranian Islamic Amal movement said in a statement reported Thursday by the press that the United States was pressuring Lebanon to seize weapons from Palestinians, Moslem fundamentalists and nationalists and to incorporate SLA militiamen into the Army's ranks in a bid to serve Israel.

The PLO had warned it would refuse to cooperate with the Army's deployment—part of a government campaign to expand its authority in areas of Lebanon previously held by militias—but would not hinder it.

The PLO wants an overall agreement on civil and political rights for some 350,000 Palestinians in Lebanon and guarantees for an armed Palestinian presence prior to the deployment.

The organization refuses to be considered a militia, instead referring to itself as an army of liberation.

Palestinians Deploy in New Positions Around Sidon

NC2806060391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] On Nahr al-Awwali, the northern approach to Sidon, on the way to the Army's 1 July deployment, there might be some surprises. Contacts are being made to avoid any possible negative developments.

These surprises began two days ago when the PLO announced that it would not cooperate with the Lebanese Army deployment or abandon its military positions unless the government initiates a dialogue. There was another surprise this morning when the newspaper AL-ANWAR published a report indicating that the Palestinians deployed in the areas between al-Awwali Bridge and Kafr Falus east of Sidon last night and established military positions and fortifications there.

Officials Deny Fatah Deployment in Sidon

NC2806063991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Zayd Wahbah, representative of the PLO chairman in Lebanon, today denied reports that Fatah forces deployed during the night in Sidon from Nahr al-Awwali to Kafr Falus.

Speaking to our radio, he stressed that the Palestinian position has not changed. He reiterated his demand for a political agreement with the Lebanese Government that goes beyond mere discussions and forms working committees.

Wahbah said: The security of the Palestinian camps is sacred, and our forces will remain in their defensive positions if an agreement is not reached with the state, and even if the Lebanese Army is deployed. He added: We will not oppose the Army if it deploys in the south, but we will not let anyone attack our positions.

We contacted Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization, and he denied the reports about the Fatah forces' deployment in Sidon last night. He stressed that the situation in the city is normal and that the Army's deployment will proceed as scheduled. He reiterated his support for an integrated deployment plan and called for starting a dialogue with the Palestinians on social and political issues. He said that his recent talks in Damascus were positive.

Dib: Army To 'Disarm' Palestinians, Hizballah

NC2806094491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Minister of State Roget Dib has told the WASHINGTON POST that approximately 8,000 Lebanese troops will move south by 1 July in an attempt to disarm Palestinian and Hizballah gunmen. He added that the Lebanese Army is determined to put an end to attacks on Israel carried out from Lebanese territory. He noted that the government is determined to bring the Palestinian and Hizballah forces under its control.

Radio Reports More Army Units Leave for South

NC2806095491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] As part of the field preparations for the Army's deployment in the south, a Lebanese Army force crossed the al-Awwali bridge at 0905 today, passing through Sidon en route to the Army assembly point in al-Zahrani. The force consists of 15 vehicles, including three M-114 personnel carriers and trucks towing three 120-mm field artillery pieces. Another Army force also left the vehicle assembly point in 'Anqun for Tanburit.

Hizballah Reportedly Dismantling Installations

NC2806105891 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Beirut, June 28 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah militia has begun dismantling its installations near Ba'labakk in central Lebanon, a source close to the group said Friday.

The militia, which has controlled the area since 1984, plans to give up the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks to the Army in the next few weeks and has begun to transfer its military arsenal to Kawkaba, about 25 kilometers (15 miles) southeast of Ba'labakk on the Lebanese-Syrian border.

Hizballah has also collected some of its arms from caches in the area of central town of Ba'labakk, which is located in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) seized the compound from the Lebanese Army in 1984 and it has been in Hizballah hands since then.

Government sources have said that the barracks will be used as a militia rehabilitation center as part of plans to disband militias under the terms of an Arab peace plan for Lebanon.

The Hizballah militia has never accepted the accord which it said consecrates "political professionalism".

The leader of the Pasdarans had vowed in April never to pull out his several-hundered-strong force from the area unless Israel withdrew from its self-proclaimed "security zone" along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Wahbah: PLO Not To Cooperate With Deployment

NC2806134291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Interview with PLO representative in Lebanon Zayd Wahbah by Voice of Lebanon correspondent Johny Munayyar on 28 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Wahbah] We demand the organization of all Palestinian-Lebanese relations in the interest of the two peoples. When we say we will not cooperate with the Army deployment, this does not mean we will stand against the Army, but merely that we will not cooperate with it. It also does not mean we are beating the drums of war. On the contrary, we are emphasizing the positive stand we adopted when the Army previously deployed in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the Tyre region. This Palestinian response was not met by any positive move by the Lebanese authorities. Therefore, it is our right to stress that it is necessary that the dialogue which began in Cairo be resumed so we may reach a comprehensive political agreement on all outstanding issues.

[Munayyar] But there is little time left. The Army will deploy on 1 July and, in my opinion, the government cannot retrack its decision.

[Wahbah] Any responsible government is supposed to check its decisions more carefully. It is supposed to view the issues which we have submitted with full seriousness.

[Munayyar] Press reports today say that the Palestinian forces deployed during the night and were put on alert. What is the true military situation?

[Wahbah] We are on alert against the Israeli enemy, not against the Lebanese Army. It is very natural that we should be alert and vigilant against the Israeli enemy. Our camps are targeted. So long as there are no security guarantees for these camps, and since no one has been able to give us a minimum of guarantees so far, it is natural we should be alert and prepared for all contingencies, especially on the part of the Israeli enemy.

Fatah Official Wounded by Unidentified Gunmen

NC2706121591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Palestinian security sources said today that four Palestinians from Fatah were killed at dawn in an ambush by undentified gunmen on the way to the al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp. The four Palestinians were on patrol under the command of officer Abu-Kayid, who was seriously wounded. The attackers escaped as soon as they opened fire.

Al-Shar' Receives State Department Officers

JN2706181791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received Mr. Frederick Vreeland, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle Eastern and North African affairs. Present at the meeting was the director of the Foreign Ministry's Organizations Department.

The meeting was also attended by Theodore Kattouf, head of the Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan section at the State Department, and Mr. Edward Djerejian, American ambassador to Syria.

Their talks focused on U.S. efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the UN resolutions.

In this regard, Mr. Vreeland confirmed the importance of Syria's role in making the peace process a successful one. He noted President Bush's deep commitment to the contents of the message he sent to President Hafiz al-Asad, and his determination to see the peace conference held and to continue the peace process on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the principle of land for peace.

'No Going Back' on Lebanese Reconciliation

JN2606073391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 26 Jun 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Launching Lebanon into the Future," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Lebanon has emerged from the bitter ordeal strengthened by the nationalist principle which says that there can be no going back and that the reconciliation march has gotten rid of the locally created obstacles in order to start facing the main impediment, represented by Israel's direct and exposed plots.

AL-BA'TH adds: Ending the outgoing phase and opening a new door toward the future is the element of challenge in the Lebanese nationalist principles, putting all the Lebanese people face to face with one option; namely, supporting the homeland and renouncing personal interests and selfishness. The Lebanese option does not stem from the interest of one at the expense of others. It is launching the entire homeland toward safety, stability, and national unity.

The paper stresses that those who challenge the Lebanese option are the Zionist invaders who have ambitions on the country's territory and wealth. The Zionist Government's Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, was not speaking for himself alone when he demanded sharing the region's waters and when he refused to commit himself to implementing Security Council Resolution 425. By these demands, Shamir reveals one of the Zionist ambitions and renews emphasis on the expansionist strategy of his settler entity.

The paper goes on to say: Despite all the Zionist leaders' statements, the Lebanese people will emphasize their commitment to two principles: the first is the freedom and unity of Lebanon's territory and people, and the second is adherence to the international legitimacy. Therefore, the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the South has come to consolidate Lebanon's commitment to these two principles and to secure an end to a situation which Israel had repeatedly used as a pretext for conspiring against and launching aggression on the Lebanese territory.

Concluding, the newspaper says: Lebanon has started its march toward the future and there will be no return to the past chaos. There will be no specifications [muwasafat] or tendencies that serve those who burdened Lebanon and its citizens to promote their interests which are attached to the interests of those who crave for authority and domination.

Paper Views Israeli Campaign as Threat

JN2706090291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Jun 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH says when Israel's rulers return to the language of threats, war, and aggression, they only go back to their nature. They cannot stand the language of just peace and firm security and stability in the region; nor can they accept the terms of international legitimacy, the resolutions of the United Nations, and the principles of international law.

AL-BA'TH continues: It is no secret, of course, that the campaign by Israel and its supporters against Syria is aimed at covering the Israeli rulers' negative position on the regional peace process, and their rejection of all international efforts aimed at pushing this process forward on the basis of UN resolutions, especially 242 and 338.

AL-BA'TH stresses that the fabricated campaign against Syria cannot possibly divert the attention of world public opinion from two important facts: First, Syria has respected the principles of the UN Charter, accepted UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, and declared its cooperation with international efforts aimed at establishing a just peace in the region. Israel, on the other hand, is rejecting peace, the principles of the UN Charter, the UN resolutions on the region, the international conference, and any other conference leading to just and comprehensive peace. Second, Israel is a dangerous military arsenal serving a racist, aggressive, and expansionist policy—one that committed aggression against the Arabs in the past and is declaring its expansionist intentions against the region under the slogan of Greater Israel, which Shamir says has its borders defined in the Torah thousands of years ago, and which extends from the Euphrates to the Nile. Above all, Israel has been depending on the policy of

force, using it and threatening to use it since Israel was established in 1947. Is there a similar focal point of tension and war anywhere in the world? And how can a sane man believe that this point of aggression loves peace or may sometime come closer to a just peace without seriously and effectively being pressured?

AL-BA'TH concludes: The road to peace is clear. Those who reject, obstruct, impede, and cripple the world community's will to achieve it are known, and those who accept international legitimacy and UN resolutions and cooperate with international efforts are also known. Israel's language of threats cannot help it jump over facts, reshuffle cards, and change the requirements and constituents of peace, which are obvious to the entire world.

U.S. Should Declare Israel 'Obstacle' to Peace

JN2706185991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The most urgent question in international press circles and political centers interested in the Middle East issue is: What next? In what direction are international efforts going, now that Israel has intensified its defiance of the entire international community? Israel has declared, through its ranking officials, that it will not withdraw from one inch of Arab territory and will not stop building settlements. It has stated that it is not concerned with the UN resolutions and does not accept UN participation in a possible peace conference.

What next? How are the wheels going to turn and on what road, now that Israel has completely turned the concept of peace upside down and employed the flexibility the Arabs have shown toward the peace proposals to build more settlements, amass more weapons, and plot more covert and overt conspiracies against Syria? Israel has rejected everything that the world has accepted and called for, and adopted all that the world has rejected and appealed against.

No one is more concerned with such questions than the United States. In recent months, and following the Gulf war, Washington has emerged on top of the list of countries which have given the starting signal for intensive efforts to begin the peace process in the Middle East on very clear and accurate bases; namely, land for peace and UN resolutions, particularly 242 and 338, which are a good basis for a solution and for a quick and comprehensive end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has exhausted the region and wasted its resources for more than 43 years.

These are the principles the United States proposed for launching the Middle East peace process. They were made clear in President Bush's speech to Congress early last spring. Now, who refused these principles, and who accepted them and gave them every chance of success? The whole world knows by now that Israel is the one that rejected these principles and intercepted them in the middle of the road after all the big international powers agreed and paved the way for these principles. Does this not mean that Israel, by all rules and standards, is the main obstacle to peace in the region? Does not this mean that Washington should publicly declare this fact to the world before the Israeli propaganda machine completely reverses facts and forges stands, placing the oppressor in the position of the oppressed and the aggressor in the position of the victim of aggression?

The talk about procedural differences between Syria and Israel in the proposed peace conference is but a cover to hide the basic stance to which Israel has adhered throughout its history; namely, an anti-peace stance that follows a policy of invasion and aggression. Syria, which genuinely wants just and comprehensive peace to be realized in the region, is willing to participate in the peace process in broad daylight. It has nothing to bargain or gamble over because it has a just cause. Just causes die if they are subjected to blackmail and bargaining, and with them perishes the logic of right and justice. We have been and will continue to be with the logic of right and justice, no matter how the circumstances might change.

Afghanistan

Rebel Rockets Fall Near Kabul Airport

BK2806042891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0421 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Kabul, June 28 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas fired rockets into the Afghan capital Kabul, ending a two-week lull but causing no casualties, officials and residents said Friday.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Humayun Mukhammel said at least three rockets slammed into the city Thursday afternoon, but residents reported hearing four powerful explosions within the space of one hour.

Mr. Mukhammel said the attack caused no casualties.

"The rockets fell on barren land. There were no casualties. The extremists are using these rockets just to terrorise the civilians," he said. But he could not confirm reports that the missiles had landed near Kabul's main airport.

Mr. Mukhammel said the rockets were fired from Koh-i-Safi region north of the capital.

Diplomats said at least two rockets landed close to Kabul's heavily guarded and sprawling airfield, but gave no further details.

Mujahidin guerrillas have been firing fewer rockets into the capital following major military operations since the beginning of the year against the rebels entrenched in hideouts surrounding mountains.

The last rocket attack on Kabul on June 14 killed three civilians.

India

Further Reportage on Kidnapped Israeli Tourist

Kidnappers Escape With One Hostage

TA2706094191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Srinagar police report that from a debriefing of the Israelis involved in this morning's kidnapping incident, it appears that the Muslim abductors knew full well that they were Israeli tourists and that was apparently their aim. It was also reported that some of the kidnappers managed to escape, taking with them one of the Israelis, who is most likely the person the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said is missing.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 27 June adds that "a short time ago, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem called on all Israelis in the province to leave Kashmir, which is undergoing a violent nationalist struggle against the Indian authorities."]

Militants Claim Killing of 'Commandos'

BK2706145691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1448 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Srinagar, India, June 27 (AFP)—A little-known Kashmiri militant group, identifying itself as the Pasdaran-i-Inquilabe-Islam, claimed responsibility Thursday for the killing of two Israeli tourists here Wednesday night.

The group said in a statement issued here that they had killed two Israeli "commandos."

Police here had confirmed the death of one 22-year-old Israeli student, Erez Kahana, and said another identified as Yairy Zhaky was missing after an unidentified group of militants tried to kidnap them from a houseboat.

Border Security Forces had earlier said they believed a group identified as the Achwan-i-Mushbani was responsible for the attempted abduction.

The statement was the first solid indication that the missing man had been killed by the would-be abductors.

Government Sees 'Cheap Gimmick'

BK2806082891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1730 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] New Delhi, June 27 (AFP)—The new government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao reacted angrily Thursday to the killing of an Israeli tourist in Kashmir which prompted an exodus of foreigners from the troubled valley.

Mr. Rao's Congress (I) Party government, which came to power exactly one month after the May 21 assassination of its supremo Rajiv Gandhi, said the bloody incident was a "cheap gimmick."

An Indian Government spokesman said Wednesday's shootout in which two Moslem abductors and an Israeli tourist died in the city of Srinagar proved the Kashmir militants were desperate to ensure normality did not return to the region.

State-run television said two militants were killed in the shootout, amending an earlier report that only one had died along with the 22-year-old Israeli.

One more Israeli was missing and presumed to have been killed by the abductors.

"The militants do not want the (Kashmir) state to return to normalcy ... Last year the militants had not harmed any foreigners and attacked only Indian tourists or Indian officials," the spokesman said here.

"This year there were signs of normality returning to the place. The militants to prevent it, first attacked the Swedish engineers and now attacked foreign tourists," the spokesman said referring to the March 31 abduction of two Swedish engineers who are still missing.

"These are frantic attempts to prevent normalcy from returning to the state; people in Kashmir want peace to return," the spokesman, Ramamohan Rao, added.

"The people in Kashmir will protest," he added in a terse statement after police said foreigners were being escorted to safer places Thursday from the Kashmir valley, which has been dependent on tourism to supplement its fragile economy.

"These are frantic attempts to draw publicity because they have lost the sympathy of the people," Mr. Rao said as police and paramilitary troopers launched an unprecedented hunt for the abductors in the turbulent province, India's only Moslem-majority state.

Kashmir Tourists Moved

BK2806044091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, all foreign tourists from Srinagar have been shifted to Jammu by the authorities following the kidnapping and attack on a group of foreign tourists by militants on Wednesday. One Israeli tourist was killed in the incident while three were injured and one is missing. A high-level meeting presided over by the State Director General of Police Mr. J.N. Saxena reviewed the situation yesterday and decided to shift to the tourists. The state authorities have also alerted the Ladakh Administration, as there are many foreign tourists in the region. A massive hunt has been launched for the missing Israeli tourist.Purwara township yesterday. Agency reports quoting official sources say four subversives, including three Pak-trained militants, were arrested in Srinagar. Ten other militants were picked up from other parts of the state.

Repolling To Be Held in 86 Places in Bihar

BK2706130291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The Election Commission has ordered the repoll on Saturday [29 June] in 58 polling stations in Monghyr and 28 booths in Begusarai Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar. In both these places, counting was withheld following reports of irregularities. The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, told newsmen in New Delhi that new returning officers have been appointed in both these parliamentary constituencies. Three central observers would also supervise and ensure the smooth conduct of the repoll. Mr. Seshan said counting will be taken up on Sunday in these constituencies. In Aurangabad, also in Bihar, the new returning officer has completed the counting and has sent a report to the commission which is being examined. In Davangere seat in Karnataka, the commission has asked the returning officer to go ahead and announce the results subject to any court order.

Rao Meets Leaders To Discuss Economic Situation

BK2706164091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has said that all political parties will have to face together the prevailing grave economic situation and find remedies to solve the crisis. Mr. Rao was discussing the state of the economy with leaders of various political parties in New Delhi today. Those present included Mr. L.K. Advani of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]; Mr. Madhu Dandavate and Mr. George Fernandes, both Janata Dal; Mr. P. Upendra, Telugu Desam; Mr. Somnath Chatterjee and Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, both CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr. Indrajit Gupta, CPI [Communist Party of India]; Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Samajwadi Janata Party [SJP]; Mr. Tridib Chowdhury, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party]; and Mrs. Chandrika Kenia, Shiv Sena. The meeting convened by the prime minister lasted more than an hour and a half. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who was also present at the meeting, outlined in detail the economic scenario including the fiscal situation and the balance of payments position.

Later, briefing newsmen, the official spokesman said all the leaders who attended the prime minister's meeting today found the discussion as useful. Some opposition leaders asked for clarifications which were provided by the finance minister. Some of them gave their reactions as well.

The spokesman said the prime minister continued his consultations with the opposition leaders at separate meetings also and met Mr. P. Upendra of Telugu Desam and Mr. Indrajit Gupta of CPI this morning. He had yesterday met separately leaders of the Janata Dal, BJP, CPI- M, the SJP, and Forward Bloc. Later, leaders of left parties—Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mr. Somnath Chatterjee—told PTI that during the meeting they opposed the government's view that there is no option but to cut subsidies and reduce the budgetary deficit. They also opposed any intention to allow entry of multinationals into the Indian market and said the government did not provide any details about the conditionalities to take a loan from the IMF. The Janata Dal leader and former finance minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, said his party is not opposed to the IMF loan, but the conditions should not be humiliating for the country.

Delhi Likely To Stress Order in Kasmir

BK2806075891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0716 GMT 28 Jun 91

[By Anil Penna]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, June 28 (AFP)—With a shock attack on foreign tourists, the bitter secessionist war in Kashmir has returned to centre stage here after being sidelined by the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and a tough national election. [passage omitted]

On Thursday, Moslem militants jolted the government and sparked an exodus of foreign vacationers with their first attack on tourists in the valley.

A 22-year-old Israeli tourist died in a shootout with a group Moslem abductors and a second was missing and presumed to have also been killed. [passage omitted]

The incident came amid a third successive lean season for tourism, which until Moslem militancy broke out in mid-1988 had been the economic backbone of Kashmir, and as India's new government completed its first week in office.

The attack immediately sparked an exodus of the few foreign tourists who had ventured into the valley, and the government hit out at Moslem militants for trying to prevent the return of normality—and tourists—to Kashmir.

A spokesman for the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao called it a desperate bid by Moslem militants to garner publicity because they had lost the sympathy of the people.

Kashmir has been high on the agenda of the ruling Congress (I) Party, whose leader and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was slain by suspected Sri Lankan Tamil rebels in southern India May 21 in the middle of an election campaign.

In his first week as premier, Mr. Rao held two rounds of talks here this week with Kashmir Governor Girish Chandra Saxena—an indication of the importance his administration accords the problem.

Home Minister S.B. Chavan told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) Thursday that the administration would deal with Moslem militancy with a "heavy hand" while trying to revive the political process in Kashmir.

Mr. Chavan said New Delhi would hold talks soon with former Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, whose administration resigned in January 1990. He is currently on pilgrimage to Mecca.

Official sources, however, said politics would have to wait until "law and order" is restored.

Even Mr. Abdullah's colleagues in his once-powerful national conference believe the political process cannot be revived while Moslem militancy and civilian dissatisfaction with New Delhi's Kashmir policy are still rampant.

"Talking of reviving politics is absurd in the present situation," said Saifuddin Soz, a Moslem MP from Kashmir, who returned to the capital Thursday after a week's visit to the valley.

He said in an interview that he could not imagine any role for the National Conference in Kashmir "in the immediate future."

"All political parties stand marginalised," said Mr. Soz, whose daughter was kidnapped by Moslem militants and held hostage for nine days in March to secure the release of five jailed comrades.

"A majority of the people do not want violence, but the government has not been able to take advantage of their mood because of the bullet for bullet attitude of the security forces," Mr. Soz said.

"Moslem militancy has remained, but state repression is much more," said Mr. Soz, who said he would meet Mr. Rao this week. "The people are being squeezed between both sides."

He cited two instances to illustrate how security forces had alienated even moderate Moslems—by opening fire on a funeral procession for three militants on May 8 killing at least 16 mourners, and by shooting 28 civilians dead June 11 in a street battle after being ambushed by militants.

In both cases, government officials have accepted that "excessive" force was probably used by security forces.

Moslem militants are still holding two Swedish engineers they kidnapped March 31 to force foreign human rights observers to visit Kashmir, a demand rejected by both the government and the United Nations.

Moslem militants launched their "armed struggle" to liberate Kashmir from Indian rule in mid-1988, a campaign which New Delhi has accused Pakistan of supporting with sanctuary, training and arms.

Islamabad, which claims Kashmir as its own and holds the northern third of the territory, denies Indian charges that it is engaged in a "proxy war," but has voiced moral support for the campaign which it calls a legitimate struggle. [passage omitted]

Militant groups are themselves divided—between independence which the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) wants and an accession to Pakistan that groups such as the Hizbul Mujahedeen favour.

Mr. Saxena believes that a solution finally has to come out of talks. "It is the only honourable and dignified way to settle things," he said in an interview recently with a weekly magazine called SUNDAY.

For now, however, no one seriously believes a solution is in the offing.

Iran

Emami-Kashani Assails U.S. Disarmament Policy

LD2806123291 Tehran IRNA in English 1052 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 28 June, IRNA—The United States came under attack today for its policy of disarming the Muslim states in the Middle East. "Take the initiative yourself if

you are really committed to the principle (of arms control) you are propagating," a senior cleric urged Washington.

"Arrogant powers who chant disarmament slogans should evacuate their own arsenals first," Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani said in his Friday prayers sermons at the Tehran University. By putting forth this issue, he said, the oppressive powers do not mean to restore peace and tranquility in the region, "because they themselves continue mass arms production, and spill various types of weaponry to the occupied Palestine."

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, a member of the Council of Guardians, also hailed the "appropriate conducting" of the hajj ceremonies this year, and thanked God the "Disavowal of Pagans" rally was held properly.

He elsewhere recalled the anniversary of the martyrdom of the late Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyni Beheshti (former chief justice) and 72 of his aides in the 28 June 1981 blast at the headquarters of the (now dissolved) Islamic Republic Party. Their martyrdom further unmasked the nature of the enemies of the Islamic revolution and the vassals of foreigners who intended to undermine the pillars of the Islamic Republic system in Iran, he remarked.

Mohtashami Questions Wisdom of Releasing Hostages

NC2706181291 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 17 Jun 91 p 2

[Political commentary in a series by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami: "Why the Efforts To Release the Hostages?"]

[Text] Why is the world-devouring United States continuing its dastardly efforts for the unconditional release of the hostages in Lebanon? Every time the U.S. President, the secretary of state, and the White House spokesman meet correspondents, the subject of releasing the hostages is somehow dragged in. Sometimes Bush even sends a direct message to the Iranian officials in his interviews with the news media, and indirectly through the heads of high-level Western delegations visiting Iran, that Iran should use its influence to help win the release of the hostages.

Similarly, the issue of the hostages has featured in the bilateral talks with Turkish officials—Turkish President Ozal in particular—and in talks with officials from the Soviet Union, France, Germany, Britain, Switzerland, and other countries that have cordial ties with Iran. Most recently this was the case during Austrian Chancelor Kurt Waldheim's visit to Iran.

The United States also asked Baker to make efforts toward this in his talks with Syrian officials, President Hafiz al-Asad in particular.

Does the United States really believe in human worth and worry about it? If this is so, then why is George Bush exerting pressure wholly and solely on the release of Americans, and has even forgotten its Western allies in this regard? Why has it kept silent on the first victims of hostage-taking, that is, the Iranians themselves (exactly nine years ago five innocent diplomats including the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran were abducted by the paramilitary Phalangist group near the U.S. and multinational Marine base)?

Why does the United States never mention the thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims still incarcerated in the dungeons of the usurpist Palestinian regime as hostages, some of them martyred every day through torture? Why is there no talk of the young Arab Palestinian, Lebanese, and Egyptian Muslims who have been captured by multinational forces in Italy, Germany, France, and Spain? This is because the arch-satan and its progenies do not believe in the worth of human life.

It is regrettable that the Islamic Republic of Iran's mass media and the policymakers in the Foreign Ministry have not taken any serious measures in international circles or at home for the release of the Muslims imprisoned in the West and occupied Palestine, or for the Iranian diplomats in Lebanon.

In any case, if the pressure of public opinion in the West and the United States had not existed, and if the element of political prestige and maintaining a superpower posture on the international scene had not been present, the hostage issue would have been forgotten forever.

The first factor is fanned by the families and relatives of the hostages in the West, and this incites and affects public opinion. Governments have no resort but to respond to it. They endeavor to calm public concern about it. The second factor is important as the United States has constantly projected itself as the domineering power on the international scene and to implement its arrogant policies and objectives in this manner in the Third World.

The bandying of the subject of the new world order—of alleviating tensions and quelling the flashpoints—also comes within the scope of these factors for the sake of the unquestioned world dominance of the arch-satan.

The implementation of the anti-human and world-devouring policies of the United States is only possible in the event that the United States can prove that it is a real "tiger", has absolute power, and is invincible; it has the last word in military and security matters in the political fields as well as in international organizations, and therefore the will of the United States should be implemented in all parts of the world by all governments!!

Therefore, the detention of the U.S. and Western spies should be terminated at all costs because this mars their false prestige.

How beautifully had His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, peace be on him, described the true visage of world arrogance and the destiny of nations: "The fact is that

the arrogant powers of the East and the West, and in particular the United States and the Soviet Union, have divided up the world in two parts: The free and the quarantined. In the free parts, there are these superpowers who do not recognize any legal fronts or boundaries, and consider aggression against others' interests, exploitation, colonialism, and enslavement of nations as imperative, logical, and in conformity with all their self-coined norms and principles.

In the section under political quarantine, there are unfortunately the weak nations of the world, and the Muslims in particular have been shackled and imprisoned in it and have no right to exist or air their opinions. Even raising a cry amidst chains and shackles is considered an unforgivable crime. The interests of the world-devourers demands that no one has the right to even say one word that smacks of an attempt to weaken them or to rob the peaceful slumber from their eyes." (The message of resistance 20 July 1989)

Yes, the peaceful slumber of the arch-satan has been disturbed by the rightful scions of the Imam in Lebanon. The Imam's life-infusing call that "the Muslims of the world are determined, alongside the Islamic Republic of Iran, to shatter the U.S.'s teeth into its mouth" has materialized in Lebanon. His eminence the Imam personally thanked them and said: "We thank our dear youth in Lebanon who have brought honor to the Islamic ummah and disgrace on the world-devourers."

The issue of the Western and U.S. hostages belies all the false claims of world arrogance. The U.S. hostages are a complete portrait of the abjectness, weakness, impotence, hollowness, and contemptibility of the the arch-satan.

The Muslim Revolutionary Hizballah youths in Lebanon, inspired by his eminence the Imam, peace be on him, were able for some years—during the height of the power and mischief-mongering of the arch-satan, the multinational forces, and the Zionists in Lebanon, and in the midst of the intense military and security fortifications of the U.S. Marines and the Western militarists—to capture military officials and Western and U.S. spies through reliance on God, and a spirit of martyrdom.

Following the shattering of these fortifications, they were able to transfer them to safe places and thus shattered the myth of the grandeur of the United States forever and proved that according to the utterances of the Imam: "The United States cannot do a thing." The U.S. hostages are living and eloquent proof of the impotence of the arch-satan before the firm determination of the Muslims.

Now we should examine the motives for this valiant action by the Muslim youth of Lebanon, and in what form will this action end? (To be continued)

Paper Urges Against 'Unilateral' Hostage Release

NC2006191791 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Jun 91 p 10

[Unattributed commentary: "Plots by Arrogance Under the Shadow of the Hostages"]

[Excerpts] At the same time the Zionists have stepped up their criminal acts against Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims, the Western media has brought the issue of the Western hostages to the fore. [passage omitted]

There may be 12 Western hostages—six Americans, three Britons, two Germans, and one Italian—in Lebanon, but there are a hundred times as many Muslims being held hostage in Israel and Lebanon. Despite this imbalance, Muslims have worked unilaterally to secure the release of the Western hostages for humanitarian reasons. The West and its mercenaries, however, have not responded positively.

The main obstacles to the hostages' release are the Western governments, especially the United States and Britain. If they were prepared to help secure the release of the Muslim hostages, then the Western hostages would undoubtedly be released at the earliest opportunity. Islamic groups in Lebanon have already given practical displays of such a humanitarian approach.

It seems that the policy of the Westerners and the Zionists is to prolong this state of affairs. They are pursuing other objectives and are indifferent to the fate of the Western hostages. Instead, they want to arouse people's feelings and thus impose their colonialist views and policies on others, especially their own public, and to use the issue to justify their hostility toward Muslims. In the past few days, the hostage issue has been making headlines in the Western press, which has consistently tried to attach all blame for the ugly crime of hostage taking to Muslims. They themselves are the main culprits, however, and were the first to take hostages. Muslims have condemned hostage taking on several occasions, but their only weapon against the arrogant West, which understands only the language of force, has been retaliation.

In other words, whenever the arrogant intensify their attacks on Muslims, they hope to hide their own crimes by taking shelter under the umbrella of condemning hostage taking.

Events of the past few months indicate that the great conspiracy against Muslims is in its final stages. A plan to annihilate Palestine is on the White House's agenda. They want to attach the name of Palestine to Jordan and to legalize Zionist rule over the entire territory of Palestine. To ensure the success of their great plot, they prepared an attack on southern Lebanon to extract concessions from the Arabs. Furthermore, the hostage issue is being raised to divert attention from the dimensions of the tragedy in the making. There are of course other issues on the periphery of these plots which are

important to the enemies of Islam, including the efforts to raise doubts about Iran's intervention in the hostage issue. The Islamic Republic of Iran has suffered more than any other country as a result of hostage taking, and Iranian hostages continue to be held by pro-U.S. and pro-Israeli groups. In any event, British television recently screened some footage which was intended to raise doubts about Iran's intervention in the hostage issue in Lebanon. The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly denied intervening in the issue and stated that it has used its influence in Lebanon only as part of a humanitarian effort to help secure the release of the hostages.

At any rate, the key to the prospects of the hostages' release should be sought in the plots against Muslims by the forces of arrogance, because they do not want the hostages to be released under the present circumstances. This can be gleaned from remarks by British and U.S. officials, who warned against expecting the Western hostages to be released in the immediate future. The West continues to need the Western hostages to justify its crimes against Muslims. Of course, arrogance will not stop its plots even if Muslim groups unilaterally released the hostages. In other words, our knowledge of the enemies of Islam tells us that the unilateral release of the hostages will not disarm them.

The only choice, therefore, is for the Islamic groups to announce that the Western hostages will be released in return for the release of their hostages.

West's 'Wheeling and Dealing' on Hostages Viewed

NC2806104091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is visiting Western countries on a political mission. Those who listen to the radio news have undoubtedly heard that Velayati met with high-ranking British officials in London and held a series of talks on British-Iranian cooperation and the Western hostages. This is the first time the Iranian foreign minister has visited London since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the countries.

The warm welcome the British Government extended to the foreign minister of a regime which was—until 10 months ago—justly known by all the capitalist countries including Britain as a terrorist and terrorist-nurturing regime is noteworthy. The fact that the West treated the regime as if it were responsible for the hostage-taking of diplomats and reporters in Lebanon is also noteworthy for a number of reasons. During the cold relations between Iran and the West's capitalist countries, many well-deserved accusations were directed at the Islamic Republic of Iran. These countries said over and over again that as long as the Iranian regime did not stop its support for terrorism, hostage-taking, and law-breaking, as long as it violated human rights inside the country and ignored international laws and norms, they would not normalize relations with Iran.

The world witnessed, however, that when economic interests—only those interests these governments deemed necessary—took precedence they began, individually and collectively, to establish diplomatic relations with the clerical regime and forgot all about their earlier slogans. Things did not end there. On several occasions, Western officials have masked the clerical regime's wrong and illegal acts to justify their friendly relations with the clergymen ruling Iran. They have tried to place a humanitarian face on this truly inhuman regime.

One of the largest concessions the Western industrial world has granted the Islamic regime is its wheeling and dealing attitude with this regime regarding the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon. It is obvious that the capitalist governments have never doubted the fact that, irrespective of the labels that those involved in hostage-taking and terrorism in Lebanon give themselves, they are dependent on Iran's clerical regime and they continue their political life thanks to the regime's material and moral support. We have heard these governments say over and over again that they would never negotiate with terrorists, hijackers, or hostage-takers or grant them concessions.

As we can see, however, these apparently anti-terrorist governments have been overtly, covertly, directly, and indirectly talking and wheeling and dealing with the Islamic Republic, which is the leader of all of Lebanon's terrorist groups. To date, they have achieved some success because some of the hostages have been released. We now see Great Britain and the cradle of civilization talking with the foreign minister of the terrorist and hostage-taking clerical regime about the release of the rest of the Western hostages.

To justify their unprincipled behavior, to fool world public opinion, and to curb general discontent in their countries, Western officials are doing their best to reduce this [word indistinct]. On one hand they allege that no transaction on the release of the hostages is going on with Iran; on the other hand they justify the clerical regime's acts and show that the Islamic Republic is not involved in hostage-taking. We should ask these gentlemen the following question: If there is no transaction going on with the Islamic Republic, how and with whose help have the few hostages who have been released been set free and returned to their homes? If the Islamic Republic has no links with the Lebanese hostage-takers, why do you all turn to this regime and ask for its help in releasing them? Will you possibly do what some of our naive compatriots do and ask the clergymen to pray for you? Why do you not tell us why you have granted so many political and economic concessions to the clerical regime in the past year? Why have all of you established diplomatic relations with the clerical regime and helped it emerge from isolation to a large extent with your

unsparing assistance? Why did you unfreeze a considerable part of its assets so that it could use them to purchase arms and war materiel and use them in suppressing Iran's freedom-seekers, in creating tension, and in exporting terrorism? Hundreds of similar questions remain unanswered.

The Western countries that pay lip service to freedom, [word indistinct], human rights, and other such holy and humanitarian issues while at the same time establishing relations with the most inhuman and disgraceful regime in the world, when their economic and commercial interests deem it necessary, cannot empty their shoulders of their responsibility so easily. By wheeling and dealing with a regime like the Islamic Republic, they are inevitably helping in the expansion of terrorism, hijacking, and hostage-taking. There is a reason why the clerical regime's officials and groups affiliated with it in Lebanon place more and more conditions on the release of the hostages every day.

We have always been opposed to hostage taking and favor the release of hostages. But we state with certainty that even if the West's behavior leads to the release of the hostages, it will pave the way for future hostage-taking. The West's policy is clearly tantamount to encouraging terrorists and hostage-takers.

Relations With Saudi Arabia To Be Upgraded

LD2806121591 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 28 June, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today said that Tehran and Riyadh have agreed to promote their diplomatic ties from the present charges d'affaires to ambassadorial level.

Velayati announced this in an interview upon his return here from visits to Saudi Arabia, Britain and Switzerland.

During his stay in Saudi Arabia Velayati held two rounds of talks with King Fahd and three rounds of talks with his Saudi counterpart Saud Al-Faysal.

Mutual relations and regional developments were discussed in the talks, where the two sides agreed that Iranian pilgrims hold "disavowal of pagans" rally during the hajj ceremonies every year. He expressed satisfaction with the way the hajj ceremony was held this year. "It suited the dignity of the Islamic revolution and met the views of the leader of the Islamic revolution," he said adding "the Saudis too fulfilled their commitments properly."

Velayati discussed the issue of Iraq as well as Tehran-London relations with British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg during a short stop-over in Britain enroute to Switzerland.

The two also reiterated the release of the foreign hostages in Lebanon as well as the Lebanese hostage held by the Zionist regime.

The Iranian minister also visited Geneva to deliver a speech at the World Economic Forum on the issues of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

Velayati was to visit France to finalize a financial dispute between Iran and France, however, spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry Daniel Bernard announced Thursday night that the two sides have agreed to postpone the visit for a few days. Bernard said that the main part of the disputes has been settled, and that only preparation of the documents remains. "Mutual talks have various and complicated dimensions, but the two countries have reached agreement in principle," he added.

Ahmad Khomeyni Urges Support for Leadership

LD2806104991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Excerpt] On the anniversary of the 28 June 1981 incident, yesterday afternoon families of those martyred in that tragedy went to the holy shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—and paid their respects and met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

At the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni said that the blood of the 28 June maryrs had exposed liberalism and hypocrisy for ever. [passage omitted]

He said: Today we must safeguard the legacy of the 28 June martyrs and other dear martyrs of the Islamic revolution, so that we may pass it on to the next generations without the slightest deviation. We must defend and support the great leader of the revolution, the heads of the three branches, and the other officials of the system and the revolution. We should be aware that we have paid a heavy price for attaining the goals of the Islamic revolution. We can safeguard those achievements by supporting the officials of the system and preventing any deviations from the path of the revolution and the system.

On U.S. Plane Landing in Tehran

NC2206110591 Tehran SALAM in Persian 29 May 91 p 3

[Commentary by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni]

[Text] When the U.S. military aircraft landed at Mehrabad Airport in Tehran, I was very ashamed. Not much attention was paid in Iran to this incident, but the Western media considered it a great event.

The arrival of the U.S. military aircraft was very repulsive. All the foreign media propounded the problem in this way: that for the first time in the history of Iran's revolution, one U.S. military aircraft landed safely at Tehran airport.

The revolution's leader has called on the revolutionary children of the Islamic world to fight against reaction, the United States, the West, and the arrogant world. We should seriously obey the leader and not entertain the idea that anything can be done for welfare purposes.

We should remember that power, naturally, brings dictatorship. In other words, it prompts a man of power to reject what his opponent says and to issue commands to accomplish things—even through the use of force. All these things gradually place the man of power on the brink of downfall. But this is not the case if someone is well-versed, of course.

Those who are well-versed and whose main duty and objective is to serve God use power to fulfill divine objectives.

I have said many times that the revolution's esteemed leadership should be kept far from criticism. Leadership is a great position, and we severely need a leader in sensitive situations. But apart from leaders, anyone—regardless of position—who wants to be effective should be criticized. The higher the position, the more severe the criticism should be so the person being criticized does not feel powerful and does not take steps against the interests of the revolution and Islam.

The Imam said that fault-finding, not criticism, is one of the divine gifts. If something happens and some do not like it, they should explain why they feel so strongly and should not think that if they say something against the wishes of our dear president or of the ministers and the representatives, it will lead to weakness. Thank God our system is placed on the strong shoulders of our pious people. It will not be harmed by such things. But refraining from criticism and resorting to great disagreements is very harmful. The media should say things that oppose the government. They should reflect the opposition by the deputies, the Majlis, and the judiciary branch. This is the freedom which has been defended many times by the people in their marches. Radio and television also can play a very fundamental role. When this kind of an atmosphere develops, then we can better fight the West. Rest assured that Western culture arrives in Iran with the U.S. military aircraft, and that the old blankets are cheap payment for such a great task.

Habibi on Nuclear Programs, Hostages

NC2706124391 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Jun 91 p 2

[Report by Mir Hoseyni]

[Text] Tehran—A top official of the Islamic Republic yesterday reiterated that "Iran's nuclear program is purely for the peaceful purposes."

First Vice-President Dr. Hasan Habibi said that "Iran's nuclear energy plan has been designed purely for peaceful purposes and it will be used in the areas like agriculture and pharmaceuticals."

Dr. Habibi was addressing a press conference to underline the policy of the government of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, which is popularly known as Monafeqin [hypocrites] in Iran because of their nefarious activities, in recent anti-Islamic propaganda said that Iran was trying to build nuclear arms.

"No, it's negative propaganda against Iran as we do not have any plan for nuclear power except to use it for medical and agricultural purposes," Dr. Habibi said in his first press conference.

Dr. Habibi has been appointed spokesman of the Rafsanjani administration and he will address a weekly press conference every Monday to explain the policy of the government.

Without taking the name of the Monafeqin, Dr. Habibi said, "Such propaganda is just to defame the Islamic Republic and it has no truth all."

Commenting on hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees in Iran, the vice-president said they are "our guests" and they can stay as long as the situation in their country does not allow them to go back.

"Whatever we can do, we will do and never spare any effort in serving them," Dr. Habibi said.

On the recently concluded visit of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, Habibi said that the visit was constructive and exchanges of views were made by officials of the two countries.

He said that President Rafsanjani explained the views on the Palestine issue and made it clear that Iran considers Israel as a usurper regime.

On the hostage issue, Habibi said that Iran reiterated its policy on the subject to the effect that this issue has nothing to do with Iran.

"We have some spiritual influence among certain groups in Lebanon which can be used for the release of the hostages," Dr. Habibi said.

On the visit of Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Habibi said that he is visiting the country for Hajj and is on a state visit for talks with the officials of that country on reciprocal relations.

Habibi said the halt in the Iran-Iraq prisoners of war swap should not affect the estimation of damages of the Iraqi war.

He said the recent war in the Persian Gulf interrupted the talks to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, and that "all articles of the resolution should be dealt with in toto."

Iran and Iraq as two neighboring countries must solve their problems, he added.

He said Saudi offiials had proposed three places for holding the rally against the pagans but Iran has turned them down.

"A better place was proposed on Sunday and the final result will be clarified today (yesterday), he said. [no closing quotation marks as published]

On problems facing Iranian youths in Japan, Habibi said the government was looking for ways including holding of talks with Japanese officials, to ease the problems in order to preserve the prestige of the country and the youths.

The vice president also disclosed that the foreign exchange quota for Iranian students abroad has been doubled, and from this year onwards, he said, the number of those going abroad for higher studies will be increased by 850.

ABRAR Commentary Views Ties With Egypt

NC2706184691 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Jun 91 p 12

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In an interview with the Egyptian magazine "Rose al-Yusuf", Iran's "new" charge d'affaires in Cairo, 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi, welcomed the upgrading of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Egyptian Government and stressed: Iran and Egypt have agreed not to look backward, as far as their future relations are concerned, and they should only focus on the future horizons!"

The following points seem necessary to mention with regard to the Iranian charge d'affaires' remarks:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran, since its inception, has emphasized the condition of its ties with Egypt on the basis of the clear remarks of his eminence the Imam; that is, no ties can be forged with Egypt until it extricates itself from the humiliating Camp David accords. By following this policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran for 12 years has refrained from ties with Egypt because of Egypt's refusal to relinquish the Camp David treaty.

But recently, on the basis of this "justification" by our foreign minister that the Islamic Revolution of Iran has influenced the Muslim people of Egypt and the people of Egypt are interested in our revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran took steps to open up "an office for the safeguarding of interests" in Cairo. Our esteemed foreign minister then explained that ties with Egypt will not progress further.

Now, in view of the remarks of the charge d'affaires, clarification is called for in response to these contradictory remarks and actions by the Foreign Ministry.

2. The important point is that the reason for the interest of the Muslim Egyptian people in the Islamic Revolution was the Islamic system's abstention from forging ties with the pro-Camp David government of Cairo. In fact, by not bestowing legitimacy on the Cairo government, the Egyptian people displayed their support and interest in nations and countries opposed to this government, and this was the true motivating factor for the influence of Iran among the Muslim Egyptian people.

3. The Iranian charge d'affaires should be fully aware that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot do more than not look backward in its ties with Egypt, when it may have been guilty of perpetrating an error or of committing a fault in the past. But now the truthfulness of the Iranian stance toward Egypt has been clearly proven to the noble Muslims of the world.

Therefore, it is not Islamic Iran which should ignore its past, because all of our current assets and strength on the international scene stem from capitalizing on our proud past. It is the Egyptian Government which needs to completely review its past political conduct. Only then will future horizons in the ties between the two countries be considered—that is, only when the past has been mended.

Paper Discusses Expansion of USSR Ties

NC2706135991 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Prospects for Expansion of Ties With Moscow in Gas and Oil"]

[Text] Future trends of cooperation between the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union are to be shaped in meetings in Moscow between a top-ranking Iranian delegation headed by the Iranian Oil Minister Aqazadeh and his Soviet counterparts.

Arriving in Moscow on Sunday, Aqazadeh explained that the aim of the 3-day visit was to probe ways of expanding the already existing relations between the two countries in the field of oil and gas.

The visit of the Iranian oil minister to the Soviet Union was not an unexpected event, and actually it should have taken place much earlier. The wide-ranging collaboration between the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union in fact requires much more frequent contacts between the respective officials of the two nations.

In general the scope of cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union covers two main areas. At the moment the Soviet Union is the largest buyer of Iranian gas, although the terms and circumstances of the transaction are far from being ideal. But in view of the fact that gas will be the most important source of energy in the coming decades, the two countries should invest a great deal more in this field, and in particular Iran could make arrangements with its Soviet partner to send gas in transit across the Soviet territory. Obviously the arrangement would be to the advantage of both nations.

However, the two countries would be well advised to dissociate their cooperation in the field of oil and gas from political considerations.

And although relations between the two countries are quite good at the moment and are likely to remain so for some time to come, projects for cooperation in these fields should be based on clear-cut terms that would not be affected by fluctuations in political ties.

Apart from collaborations related to gas, and the exploitation of the Iranian portion of the Caspian Sea oil reserves, which is currently being carried out, the issue of collaboration between the two countries should also be looked at from another angle.

The Soviet Union is among the major oil producers, and earns a great deal of its foreign exchange through the sale of oil. And although the Soviet Union is not an OPEC member, it should take a more active role in support of oil prices.

As a matter of fact Tehran could act as an intermediary between the other OPEC members and the Soviet Union, and naturally the collaborations between the Soviet Union and OPEC nations would have to be based on safeguarding mutual interests.

In recent years Western countries have been taking a lot of pains to prevent any kind of rapprochement between OPEC members and the other oil-producing nations. Thus the presence of the Iranian oil minister in Moscow, accompanied by members of the oil commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly as well as experts from the oil and foreign ministries, offers a unique opportunity for the exchange of views on the above topics with Iran's northern neighbor.

Expansion of Commercial Ties With UK Examined

LD2106034191 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, 20 June, IRNA—The Islamic Republic is well on its way towards becoming an exporter of industrial items by the end of the first five-year plan which began last year, said head of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce 'Ali Naqi Khamushi here today.

In a meeting with British Charge d'Affaires to Tehran, David Reddaway, he said the Irano-British Joint Chamber of Commerce is to be reactivated in order to expand mutual relations pending the Foreign Ministry's approval.

"Iran is the gate to the Middle East, and countries which want to walk into the Middle East market should enter through this gate," Khamushi added.

Many offers have been received for joint investments and entry to the Iranian market, most of which he said are not harmonious with the present Iranian economic policy.

He also called for British cooperation in the eco-industrial projects in Iran.

Reddaway said Britain wants to have good relations with Iran in view of the common interests.

"British businessmen are optimistic regarding economic prospects in Iran," he said.

Daily Criticizes 'Luxury-Loving' Officials

NC2706184591 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Jun 91 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "We Should Not Become Afflicted With the Maladies of Anti-Popular Systems"]

[Text] In our previous editions, we elaborated on the religious and revolutionary need for simple living by the system's officials and recalled the warning from our late Imam—may his soul be sanctified—and our leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, regarding the appearance of habits of the idolatrous palace residents. Today we shall mention some instances so they may not be repeated:

1. Some officials appear increasingly inclined to take foreign trips. An assessment of trips abroad by Iranian delegations takes a while, but some trips appear to have positive results and others negative ones. There are some instances, however, which merit discussion in this article. For example, the Islamic Majlis Agricultural Committee visited New Zealand in 1989, then proceeded to Beijing. Our embassy in Beijing earlier opposed this visit because it was hard-pressed for time due to an influx of visits by delegations and had inadequate time to plan for obtaining suitable results from these visits.

Unfortunately, through pressure from Iran, this visit materialized, and after staying in Beijing for two days, our committee members decided to return to Tehran following some unimportant trips and meetings. All the seats had been booked on the out-going flights and there was no room for them. Following numerous conversations with Tehran, 13 of the passengers on the plane who had confirmed tickets were bumped off, and the delegation members were allowed to board the plane instead—on instructions from the center. The reason for this haste was given as an important Majles meeting in which they had to participate.

The bumped-off passengers, some of whom had patients with them, protested against this unlawful act outside the embassy, disrupting normal embassy operations. They were permitted to remain in the lobby of the embassy, and then the Iranian airlines office took them to a hotel in keeping with its legal obligations and had to pay for their room and board at the hotel for some days until they were put on a later flight.

If participation in the Majles session was so necessary, why did the committee insist on making the unimportant trip? Why did they not heed the earlier requests from the embassy that there was an influx of delegations coming in? How was the airline authorized to deprive people of their rights, despite the presence of rigid regulations in this regard?

We wish to cite another instance which not only indicates the emergence of a luxury-loving tendency, but also rings the danger knell, warning of a fissure in the independence of some of the esteemed Majles deputies:

In August 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] a well-known Majles deputy, along with his wife, five sons, and two others (nine persons in all), went for a 14-day visit to Japan at the invitation of the Japanese company NEC. Despite the fact that there was a direct Tehran-Tokyo flight available, they insisted on going to Beijing and staying at the embassy there, and after two or three days of sightseeing and shopping, they returned to Tehran. It may be mentioned that the NEC company is party to contracts with some ministries in Iran (including the Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Ministry), and the dangers of such invitations are not hidden from any wise person. Of course, in a telephone conversation, this deputy said he had gone to Japan at the invitation of an Islamic organization, but the official report by the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Tokyo is the same as published. (Footnote: This visit has been mentioned in the "Collection of Reports on Developments in Japan", Volume Four, August-September 1989-90, page 360, which is among the publications of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Tokyo. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy provided the information on the visit to Beijing.)

2. At some levels of responsibility, having offices and secretaries is necessary to ease the work of the people, but employing this mode of organization in lower organizational management levels, homes, and work places of most of the Friday imams not only does not expedite the work, but also obstructs the people's contact with the nation's servants. These superfluous formalities merely give the concerned official a snobbish veneer and have no other use. This state of affairs was not even present in the former government offices.

Also among these are the excessive protection formalities, especially the use of the latest car models to transport the ministers, Majles deputies, and Friday imams, which has an unpleasant effect.

3. Due to the magnitude of work, officials usually do not have time to mingle with the people in the street, and it is for this reason that they should use their free time and exercise and leisure time—which is also necessary—to ensure more contact with the people and their lives. Unfortunately, in this regard it has been observed that most of the officials use private reserved clubs to swim and exercise in. As an example, we may mention the telecommunications club or the military academy sports center, or in some cases, the Vali-'Asr club (formerly the Ice Palace). Not only does this attitude deprive them of mingling with and creating rapport with the people, but it also bolsters their attitude of feeling exclusive and extravagant.

4. The use of the grandest models of government automobiles for officials' families is another example of the idolatrous habits which have been observed in society. A suitable spot to observe this malady is when the more expensive schools close for the day, where the chauffeurs of the government officials wait to take the officials' children home. One of the drivers of a chic opium-colored Cadillac was interviewed and asked for whom he was waiting. He said for the daughter of Dr...., a university official. The driver was asked to convey a message to that newly-appointed young official to refrain from such incorrect conduct. Unfortunately, the same car continues to be seen at the same place for the same purpose!

Daily on Indian Election Results

NC2706141391 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 20 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Congress Victory Welcomed in Tehran"]

[Text] India's Congress Party, which emerged from marathon elections just short of a majority, is looking for coalition partners to form a government. However, those groups with whom the Congress is seeking to form a coalition, have been somewhat ambivalent about joining in the government, saying they would prefer to support Congress on an issue by issue basis.

The voting, which was delayed after the assassination of the Congress leader Rajiv Gandhi on 21 May, followed one of the bloodiest electoral campaigns in India, and left more than 300 people killed. The Congress Party and its allies won 229 of the 511 seats—only 27 seats shy of a majority—but face no legal obstacle in forming a government.

Tehran welcomed the news of the Congress Party's victory. From the standpoint in Tehran the greatest threat facing the Indian society after Gandhi's assassination was social and political instability. Under the circumstances only the victory of a strong party could guarantee any degree of stability in the country. It should be pointed out, however, that there are strong parties like Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] which could not stabilize social conditions at any time. The BJP is deeply rooted in racist attitudes, and its very existence is the greatest danger to the Indian society.

A vast country like India, with a multitude of races and religions, could never be governed by a party like BJP characterized by extremist racist and religious attitudes. And although the BJP, which won only 109 seats, was in fact defeated, it is worth reminding ourselves that in 1984 the number of BJP representatives could be counted on the fingers of a hand.

Thus the Indian society is far from being rid of the Hindu fundamentalist menace. And as this racist tendency poses the greatest threat to the democratic tradition in India, supporters of democracy in the subcontinent face the tough task of stopping the growth of such an unwelcome appendage to their society.

In fact the other major parties have understood the potential danger resulting from BJP's growth, and are now largely concerned with freezing out BJP and its challenge to the traditional secular politics, opening a series of options for Congress to achieve a majority. For the moment, however, the Congress Party's first priority is to elect a leader.

The acting Congress leader P.V. Narasimha Rao, appointed after Gandhi's death to delay the potentially lethal leadership battle until the elections were over, is a favorite for the position that would carry the premiership with it. But he faces a strong challenge from Sharad Pawar who represents many of the younger generation of politicians.

The new Congress leader, whoever he turns out to be, will have to bear the tremendous task of forging a unity among contending political forces in the country, and as such he should be possessed of exceptional personality traits which can inspire trust and reliability. Only under the guidance of such a leader can India perform its exceptionally important role in the international political arena.

Paper on Iran-Iraq Border Situation

NC2706122691 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Creating External Conflict For Solving Internal Problems"]

[Text] On Tuesday 18 June, Iran's envoy to the United Nations, Kamal Kharrazi, rejected Baghdad's accusations that Tehran is meddling in the internal affairs of Iraq and warned Baghdad against "creating external conflict for resolving internal problems". He also called for the Iraqi Government to respect the religious shrines in that country.

Following the Iraqi president's defeat in the Persian Gulf war and the subsequent popular uprising against Ba'thist rule in Iraq, Saddam Husayn started to blame Iran for Iraq's internal crisis. At the beginning of the armed popular revolt in Iraq, Baghdad blamed Tehran for providing arms to the Shiite Kurds. The very fact of the matter is that during the war with the Washington-led alliance, the Ba'thist regime distributed weapons to the people to defend the cities and towns against possible invasion by foreign forces.

After the cease-fire, the Iraqi people, using the same weapons, captured military bases and police stations and obtained more fire arms with which they succeeded in controlling cities and towns in northern and southern Iraq for some days. With the same arms the Shiites are still continuing their hit and run warfare with government troops. But the Iraqi regime still falsely accuses Iran for supporting the Iraqi Mujahidin and in order to retaliate, the Ba'thist forces have used members of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) to attack border posts and villages inside Iranian territory. They have killed, wounded, and even taken a number of Iranian troops captive. The documents concerning these Iraqi violations of peace terms have been delivered to the U.N.

Although Baghdad has accepted the 1975 Algiers Accord, until the fulfilment of a permament peace between the two countries, the situation in the border areas needs to be closely monitored. Presently the internal political situation in Iraq is not stable. The protracted talks with the Kurds have not yet reached conclusion while the condition of Shiites in the south is unpredictable.

For these reasons the United Nations must keep a close eye on what is going on in the Iran-Iraq border regions in order to prevent an increase of tension between the two states and, moreover, to stop Baghdad from using the age-old technique of "creating external conflict for resolving internal problems".

Pakistan

Sharif Seeks Intense Law Enforcement in Punjab

BK2806123291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 28 Jun 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has directed the Punjab administration to make the enforcement of law more intense and result-oriented with a view to improving the law and order situation in the province and restoring confidence of the general public. He was presiding over a high-level meeting in Lahore today. The meeting was attended among others by the Punjab governor, Mian Mohammad Azhar; provincial minister, Mr. Arshad Khan Lodhi; Mian Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif, MNA [member of National Assembly]; some MPA's [members of provincial assembly] from Lahore; and senior provincial officials, including the police chief.

The prime minister also directed to purge the civil and police administration of indifferent and inefficient elements and post such officers at every sphere who work with spirit, dedication, and without fear or favor. He also ordered the setting up of watch and ward committees at mohalla [division in city or village] level with immediate effect. These committees will consist of local notables, elected representatives, elaqa [regional] magistrates and [police] station house officers. The committees will maintain constant vigil on the overall law and order situation in their localities. Mr. Nawaz Sharif also directed that all the federal and provincial agencies connected with the maintenance of law and order should

pool their resources and work very closely for achieving better performance and results.

The Punjab governor, Mian Mohammad Azhar, and chairman and members of the Provincial Crime Control Committee headed by Mian Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif visited today the site of the tragedy in which 13 members of a family were murdered in Islampura in Lahore to get first-hand information about the gruesome incident. They assured the people that every possible effort was being made to apprehend the culprits who would be tried by the special antiterrorist courts. They also offered condolences to the relatives of the deceased and offered fateha [prayers].

Sharif Seeks Opposition's Help To Restore Peace

BK2706165891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1544 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, June 27 (AFP)—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ruled out a military option in southern Pakistan's troubled Sindh province Thursday and called for opposition parties' cooperation in restoring peace.

"We are very much concerned about Sindh," Mr. Sharif said. The lawlessness there "could derail our government's economic policies."

He said his eight-month old government wanted all political parties in Sindh "to sit together and find a solution" out of the quagmire.

Sindh, the country's only province with access to the Arabian Sea through its Karachi port, is in the grip of the worst law and order problem in recent years. The problem was aggravated recently with a new wave of politically motivated banditry.

As hundreds of businessmen are being kidnapped for ransom, robberies and daylight murders of important figures by politically backed terrorists have infused a sense of insecurity among industrialists.

The situation has resulted in factory lockups in some troubled areas and also a flight of capital to less problematic Punjab and the Northwest Frontier Province, business sources said.

The prime minister, talking informally at a luncheon he hosted for the newly setup Foreign Correspondents Association, said there was no immediate plan to use a military option or to dissolve the provincial government.

The provincial govevent is empowered to use the civil armed forces to restore peace, he said.

He said his government wanted to create a peaceful atmosphere to develop the economy. It has announced what it called unprecedented incentives for foreign investment in the country.

"We have lifted restrictions on bringing in and taking out hard currency," he said, adding that investors could repatriate their profits in foreign exchange if they wished.

The government control on establishing new ventures has been minimised and the deregulation and denationalisation policy was paying dividends. Foreign enterpreneures are showing interest in power generation and other industrial projects, he added.

Mr. Sharif, who is to visit Japan from July 1-5 on his first trip since his election as prime minister in November, said he would make a one-day stop in Hong Kong on his return to meet top businessmen there.

Asked if he wanted a "slice of Hong Kong" after the British governorate is handed back to China, he said "there is some concern" there about the post-1997 era and Pakistan would be a place to invest.

Mujahidin Said To Repulse 'Military Onslaught'

BK2706162491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Jun 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have repulsed a Kabul regime's huge military onslaught for recapturing Khanabad city last night. According to Afghan news agency, the defeated Kabul forces escaped to the city of Kunduz, leaving behind a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Mujahidin say they have inflicted heavy losses on Kabul troops in men and material.

Another report says 20 civilians were killed, (?14) injured, and dozens of houses flattened in indiscriminate bombing by Kabul regime air force on the newly liberated town of Khowst last Tuesday [25 June]. There are also reports of a huge explosion in an ammunition dump in Pol-e Charkki on Sunday last in which five Kabul troops were killed and a number of military vehicles destroyed.

Heroin Seized at Balochistan Minister's House

BK2606163091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Jun 91

[Text] The Sindh chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, has reiterated his government's resolve to deal firmly with criminals, terrorists, and corrupt political elements irrespective of their party affiliations. Addressing a news conference in Karachi today, he said more than 300 dacoits [robbers] have been killed, reflecting the commitment of the Sindh government to eradicate this menace.

Jam Sadiq Ali said in a raid on the house of a Balochistan minister, Mr. Sanaullah Zehri, in Karachi, police seized 2 kg of heroin and a large quantity of sophisticated weapons. Further investigation in the matter is in progress.

Sharif To Send More Delegations to U.S.

BK2706104391 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Jun 91 p 12

[Text] June, 25—Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that the visit to the United States by a senior Pakistani official has helped ease strained relations between the two countries.

He said that the visit by the Chairman of Pakistan's Senate Wasim Sajjad had been successful and constructive, and plans to send more delegations to Washington to strengthen relations.

However, he said that the aim of the trip had not been to win a renewal of 600 million dollars in annual American aid suspended last October.

Washington halted the aid after President Bush declined to certify to Congress that Pakistan was not building nuclear weapons. Mr Sajjad, said that differences remained on cut in aid, but the two sides had agreed to continue discussions on the issue.

'Source' Comments on Sajjad's U.S. Visit

BK2706104591 Lahore THE NATION in English 26 Jun 91 pp 1, 10

[By Arif Nizami]

[Text] Lahore—As a result of the recent Wasim Sajjad mission to Washington, Pakistan and the US have struck a new relationship based upon mutual lowering of expectations. This claim was made by a high-level diplomatic source accompanying the Senate Chairman, while talking to THE NATION.

The source reiterated Pakistan's stand that the mission had not gone to the US to get the aid package for Pakistan restored. And even if they had tried, it would have been a herculean task to unravel the tangles of the 'Pakistan specific' Pressler Amendment.

The diplomatic source also claimed that apart from mustering a positive response from the US administration and Congress to Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference on nuclear non- proliferation in South Asia, the US House of Representatives' overwhelming veto to extend the application of the Pressler Amendment to India was a victory for Pakistan.

The source, however, conceded that it was Pyrrhic victory in the sense that the extension of the Pressler Amendment to India stipulated that 'it will not have additional nuclear explosive devices' whereas in the case of Pakistan the same law states that the US President has to certify that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear device.

Secondly, the US is an insignificant source for India's military hardware whereas Pakistan is adversely affected by the aid cut-off even in terms of getting spare parts for its US supplied equipment.

Thirdly, US aid for Pakistan suspended last October, amounts to more than US dollars 550 million while India receives not more than US dollars 100 million from the US.

Interestingly the Waslm Sajjad mission, which is now being touted as a success by official circles, started from a low point not only because of lack of enthusiasm of the US administration but also thanks to the luckewarm attitude of Pakistan's Ambassador in Washington Mr Najamuddin Sheikh.

According to reliable sources the Ambassador advised the mission not to come hours before its departure, saying that it would result in a fiasco as nobody who mattered in Washington was willing to see them. It was Secretary-General, Foreign Affairs Mr Akrai ZAki who put his foot down-and decided that the mission will go and if it is cold shouldered in Washington, that in itself will be the litmus test of the future of US-Pakistan relations.

The mission ultimately met everybody it had originally planned to meet including US Vice-President, Secretary of State, Secretary Defence, the National Security Advisor to the US President and Under Secretaries for Political and International Affairs.

According to an insider the reluctance on the part of Pakistan's Ambassador in Washington has been perceived in Islamabad as an upshot of the craving of group for the return of the prodigal, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan as advisor foreign affairs. The Sahabzada's group claims the blessings of the President in their endeavour and believes that only Pakistan's veteran diplomat is capable of restoring the old US-Pakistan nexus.

In the light of this it will not be a surprise to see a shake up in the Foreign Office including reshuffling of Ambassadors in some important capitals.

Commenting on reports that Wasim Sajjad during his parleys in Washington gave some sort of assurance to the US administration and congress regarding the so-called 'roll back' of Pakistan's nuclear programme to October, 1989 status as demanded by the US, the high-level source categorically denied any such deal adding 'the proof of the pudding is in eating it'. We did not go for restoration of aid nor did we get it.'

He also quoted from the US State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler's statement which states the talks also continued the dialogue between Paksitan and the US on nuclear issue. Discussions were forthright and cordial, reflecting the longstanding friendship between the two countries and the mutual desire to resolve outstanding differences.'

The US administration also expressed its interest in Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, terming it as 'constructive'. The mission was also informed about the US perception that India has not said a final 'no' to the

proposal and the new government in New Delhi, might not be so averse to the idea floated by Islamabad.

Mr Wasim Sajjad and Akram Zaki flew straight to Lahore on Saturday and briefed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on their mission.

It is learnt that the Prime Minister gave Mr Zaki the go-ahead to hold consultations for a preliminary conferene in Geneva at the ambassadorial level to be sponsored by the US, USSR and China, including India and Pakistan over the issue. However, in the absence of India giving some kind of a positive response to the proposal it remains stillborn despite the diplomatic support of USA, China and the Soviet Union.

As for the state of US-Pakistan bilateral relations the source predicted that they will certainly improve in the coming weeks saying that the mission, during its talks with the administration, adopted the strategy of stressing on areas of agreement and commonality of interests between the two countries and singling out areas of sharp disagreements like the nuclear issue.

Regarding the aid issue the US administration ensured that other donor countries and agencies will not be dissuaded from continuing their assistance to Pakistan. However, the US which is already supplying super computers and aircraft engines to India has yet to extend the same facility to Pakistan.

Similarly, spare parts for US supplied military equipment for Pakistan remain suspended under the Pressler Amendment. The source said that signing on the dotted line for restoration of spares which in any ease will be suspended if there is war with India (a la 1965 and 1971) will be too heavy a price to pay.

A scaled down relationships between Islamabad and Washington with no illusions on both sides lays down a basis for a mature and longstanding relationship for the future, it added.

A positive achievement of the mission is that for the first time a serious effort has been made to have a direct dialogue with US Congressmen representing different lobbies in House.

Mr Wasim used his credentials as well as Chairman Senate to initiate this process. The previous approach of lobbying with the Congress and select a few pro-Pakistan Congressmen could not have paid dividends in the changed environment of US-Pakistan relations.